

Fruits Basket

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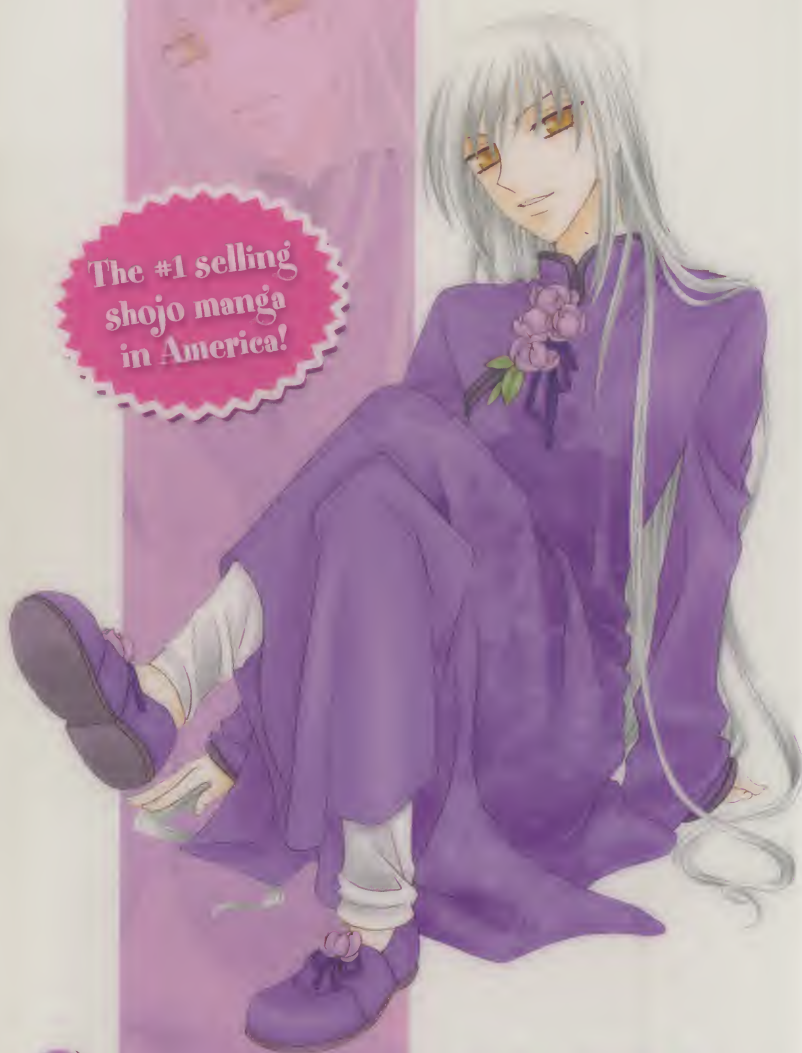
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Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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The #1 selling
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Manga
Romance/Comedy
US \$9.99
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Fruits Basket™

Finally—summer has arrived! While Tohru struggles through the bipolar days of hope and anxiety, what will happen when Yuki comes face-to-face with the new member of the student council? Meanwhile, who is that Uo-chan's hanging out with? Is she e-r-a-z-y in love? In a bonus feature, Hana-chan's past is finally disclosed! Come join the party in the 9th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, the world's most popular shojo manga!



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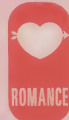


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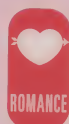


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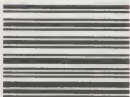


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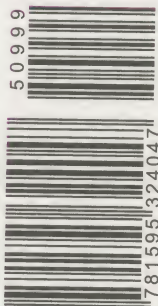
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Fruits Basket™

Volume 9



Natsuki Takaya

STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

Table of Contents

Chapter 49	10
Chapter 50	43
Chapter 51	73
Chapter 52	125
Chapter 53	155
Rain Shelter of Terror	185
Year of the Snake	194
Fans Basket	195

Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio

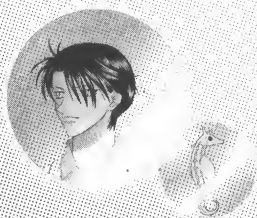


Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

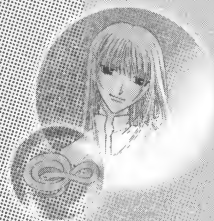
Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmias. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."

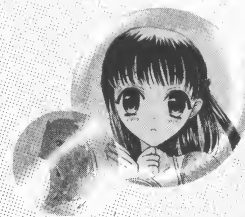


Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

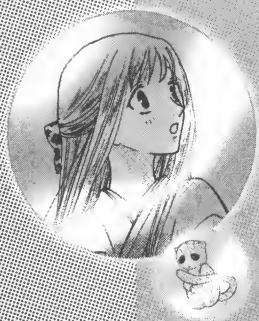
Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



Fruits Basket Characters

Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.

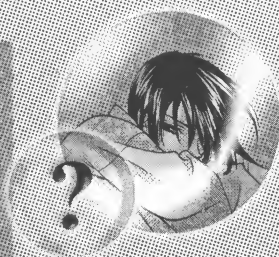


Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.

Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.

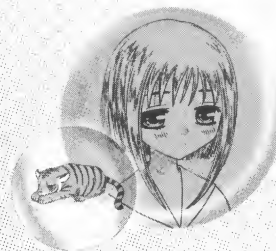


Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.

Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.





Fruits Basket™

Chapter 49



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 1

The title keeps getting shorter and shorter. (Pretty soon there won't be any title left at all.) Finally members of the student council (two of them) make an appearance. There won't be any more of them for a while, though.

Filler sketch





HE'S JUST
A REGULAR,
BORING GUY.

WHADDAYA
MEAN,
"FLAWLESS"?

THAT'S
LIKE A
ROBOT--
IT'S
CREEPY.



WE'D
BE
BETTER
OFF IF
HE DID.

HE'S FINE.
KYO-KUN
WOULDN'T
DIE FROM
THAT.



IT'S BETTER
THAN BEING
STUPID.

AH-
UH-
UM!

GAAH!!

THUNK



YOU'RE NOT
MAKING ANY
SENSE...

NO, NO, IT'S NOT THE
SAME. MY LAZY SUMMER
DAYS BRING WITH THEM
NONE OF THE BLISSFUL
CONNOTATIONS OF TRUE
"SUMMER VACATION,"
RECOGNIZED BY YOUTH
THROUGHTOUT THE
WORLD.

sigh...

...SUMMER
VACATION
ISN'T ALL FUN
AND GAMES,
SHIGURE-SAN.

THERE'S
SO MUCH
HOMEWORK
TO DO OVER
THE BREAK!

IT'LL MAKE ALL
TOO MUCH SENSE
WHEN YOU BE-
COME A MEMBER
OF SOCIETY.

BUT...



I-
I COULD
NEVER DO
THAT!!

IF YOU'RE
SO WORRIED,
TOHRU-KUN, LET
ME GIVE YOU
SOME LOVING
ADVICE.

♡

JUST COPY
THE FLAWLESS
PRODIGY YUKI-
KUN'S HOMEWORK
AND BE DONE
WITH IT.

GIMME A
BREAK!

SO MUCH
THAT I DON'T
KNOW IF
I'LL EVER
BE ABLE TO
FINISH IT.

I'LL
DO MY
BEST...



WE'RE BEHIND
ON A BUNCH OF
THINGS, SO WE
HAVE TO WORK
OVER THE BREAK
TO CATCH UP.

YEAH. I HAVE
SOME WORK TO
DO AS THE NEXT
STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENT.

Ahh?
I'M
SORRY!

WE GET IT! NOW
PUT THAT THING
DOWN BEFORE
YOU BURN
SOMEBODY!

...I SEE YOU'RE
WEARING YOUR
UNIFORM. ARE
YOU GOING TO
SCHOOL?

BY THE
WAY, YUKI-
KUN...

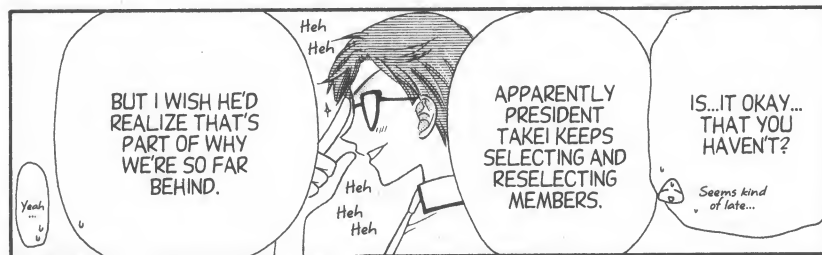


UH... NO,
NOT YET.

YUKI-
KUN!

HAVE YOU MET
ANY OTHER
MEMBERS
OF STUDENT
COUNCIL YET?

EH?!



BUT I WISH HE'D
REALIZE THAT'S
PART OF WHY
WE'RE SO FAR
BEHIND.

HEH
HEH
APPARENTLY
PRESIDENT
TAKEI KEEPS
SELECTING AND
RESELECTING
MEMBERS.

IS...IT OKAY...
THAT YOU
HAVEN'T?

Seems kind
of late...



I THOUGHT
I TOLD YOU.
STOP CALLING
ME STUPID!!

BUT
I SUPPOSE
STUPID IS
AS STUPID
DOES.

WHY,
YOU!!

See?
HE'S NOT
DEAD.

IF YOU'RE GONNA
COME AT ME, DO IT
FROM THE FRONT,
YOU COWARD!!

IF YOU
WEREN'T
SO STUPID,
MAYBE
YOU COULD
SENSE ME
COMING.

AH, Y--
YOU
TWO!!



YOU STOP
SWINGING
THAT THING
AROUND!!

PLEASE,
YOU HAVE
TO STOP
FIGHTING!!



YOU'RE AS
DENSE AS AN
OGRE! DENSE AS
LEAD! IF A
TACK IS SHARP,
YOU'RE THE THING
FARTHEST
FROM IT!

My
God,
man,
you're
dense
!!

A MAN LIKE YOU HAS
NO RIGHT TO HAVE
SUMMER! PACK YOUR
BAGS AND LEAVE THIS
PLACE AT ONCE!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

THE FACT
THAT YOU STILL
DON'T UNDER-
STAND AFTER
I'VE MADE IT SO
CRYSTAL CLEAR
IS PROOF THAT
YOU'RE AN
IDIOT OF THE
HIGHEST ORDER!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER?!



AT LEAST
I GET THAT
I'M REALLY
BEING MADE
FUN OF!

TOHRU-KUN,
IT'S NO USE!
KYO-KUN IS
WASTED
ON YOU.

UNLIKE ME,
HE SHOWS
NO PROMISE
WHATSOEVER!



WELL
THEN, I'LL
BE BACK IN
TIME FOR
DINNER.

YES!

TAKE
CARE!

I'M OFF.



UH...STILL
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

WOULDN'T IT
BE NICE IF YOUR
FRIENDSHIP
WERE TO, SAY...
DEEPEN?

Ooh, I'm
excited!



AT LEAST
THIS SUMMER
WON'T BE A
COMPLETE
BUST.

I CAN STILL
BE HAPPY
WATCHING THE
SOAP OPERA
UNFOLD.

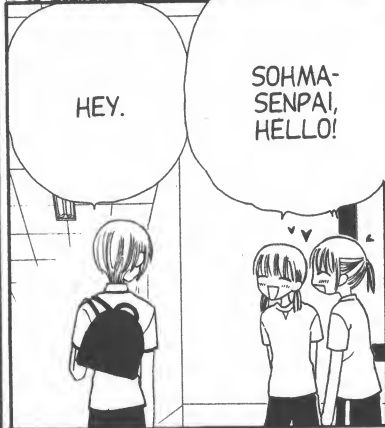
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



...



PRESIDENT TAKEI PROBABLY ISN'T HERE YET.



HEY.

SOHMA-SENPAI, HELLO!



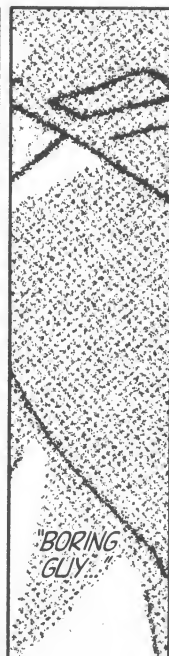
I GUESS I GOT HERE A LITTLE EARLY.



I COULD HAVE...



...TOLD HIM THAT MUCH.

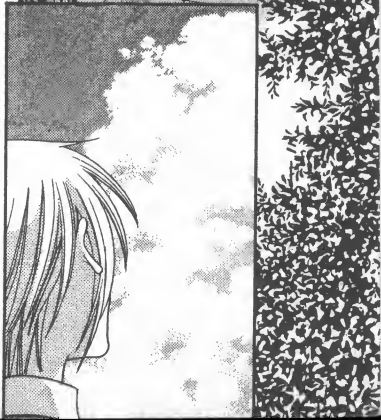


"BORING GLY"



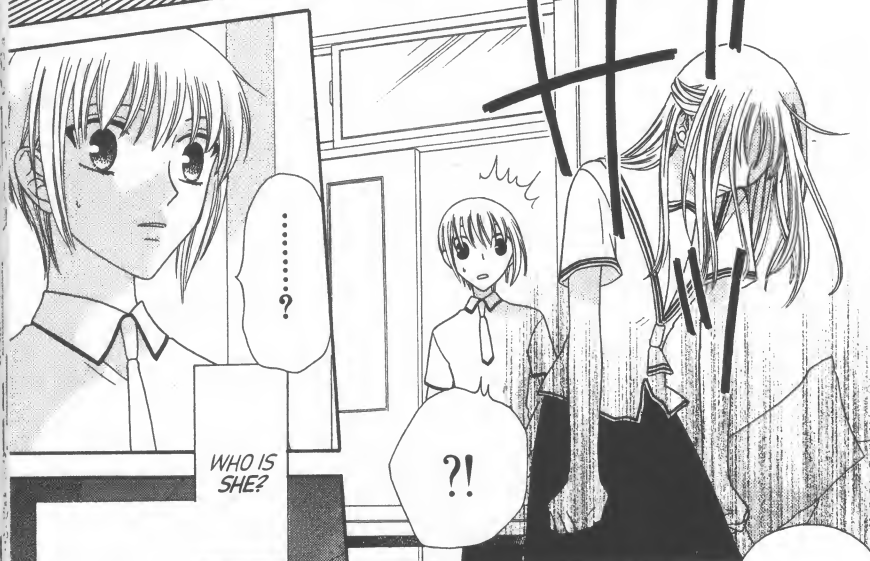
miin

miin





CLACK



WHO IS SHE?

IT'S LIKE SHE'S JUST GONE BERSERK.

AH...

I'LL CLEAN IT UP.

I'M SORRY.

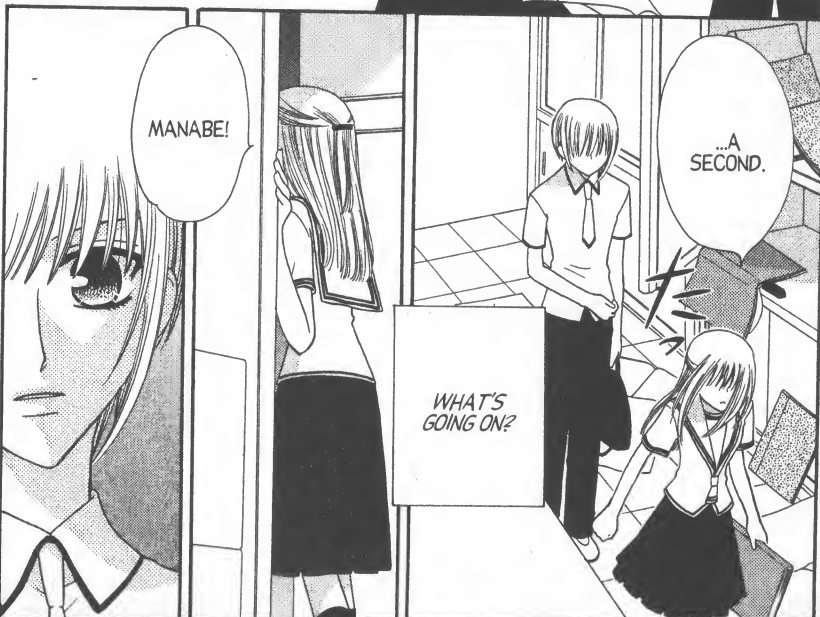


HUFF



Fruits Basket 9
Part 1

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa! Takaya reporting for duty, here to present Furuba volume 9! This makes 21 volumes of manga that I've produced to date. (It doesn't feel so special anymore.) Volume 9 features "the King." Yup! It's Ayame. And now the Mabudachi Trio have all had their moment in the spotlight. Mabudachi fans, please line up volumes 4, 7, and 9. I guess no one really does that... Anyway, please enjoy volume 9.





PEOPLE CALL ME DIFFERENT THINGS, LIKE MANABE OR MANABE-KUN OR NABE-KUN OR KAKERU OR "HEY YOU."

KAKERU MANABE!!

I'M KAKERU!!! IT'S WRITTEN, "THE TRUE POT FLIES."*

*He's explaining how to spell his name in kanji. His surname is "ma" (true) "nabe" (pot), and his given name is "kakeru" (to fly).

I WOULD RECOMMEND "SHOU" MYSELF.

No one's called me that yet!

WELL, CALL BY ME WHATEVER SUITS YOU!

*"Shou" is another way to pronounce the kanji character that makes up his name.



OH! OH YEAH!!

THE GIRL OVER THERE IS A FIRST YEAR. HER NAME'S MACHI KURAGI! SO...

BY THE WAY, I'M IN CLASS 2-A!

NO WORRIES, I KNOW YOU EVEN WITHOUT AN INTRODUCTION! YOU'RE YUKI SOHMA!

Aah!

UM...



EH?!

shock

O W A A H !!



Argh! What a mess!!

MACHI! YOU DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?!

WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP SOONER? NOW HE KNOWS I WAS SLACKING!

AH...

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE! I WASN'T SLACKING. I'M INNOCENT!

I WAS MERELY MEDITATING.

HURRY UP AND CLEAN UP THIS MESS!



I'M THE VICE PRESIDENT!

YEAH, THEY'VE GOT TO BE.

COULD THESE TWO BE...?

MANABE.

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM THAT WE'RE IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

AH! RIGHT, RIGHT!

grab

AND SHE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY APPOINTED TREASURER!

SO WE'RE THE ONES WHO'LL BE WORKING FOR YOU AS SOON AS YOU'RE SWORN IN AS THE NEW STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT!



NOW, THERE'S JUST ONE QUESTION I'VE BEEN DYING TO ASK YOU!



I'M BLACK!

"BLACK"...? UM...ALL RIGHT...

Your coffee? Your personality?

IT'S THE ONE THING I WILL NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!

SO PLEASE LET ME BE BLACK!

HUH?



WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHO YOU ARE?!

WELL...?!

I TOLD YOU, I'M KAKERU MA--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!

NOW THAT I'VE SAID WHAT I WANTED TO SAY, I'M SLEEPY!!

NOW THEN!



AGH! HE'S
JUST LIKE
HIM!!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!

Ha!



I PRESUME
YOU'VE
FINISHED THE
INTRODUCTIONS?

OH!!

Salut!

YOU, TOO,
MANABE-KUN,
KURAGI-KUN!!

MY, MY, YOU
SEEM TO BE DOING
EXCEEDINGLY
WELL, YUKI-KUN!
MY APOLOGIES FOR
BEING LATE!

WHAT
ARE YOUR
IMPRESSIONS,
YUKI-KUN?!



IS THIS
GOING TO BE
OKAY...?!

AND SO...

...I'M GOING TO
SLEEP, SO I'LL
LEAVE THE REST
TO YOU!

HEY!
I THOUGHT
YOU HAD
A...

YOU'RE IN GOOD
HANDS, MR.
PRESIDENT! WE'RE
AT YOUR BECK AND
CALL, SO DON'T
HESITATE TO CALL
ON US FOR ANY
REASON!



THERE'S
SOME-
THING
ABOUT
HIM...

HE'S OBLIVIOUS TO
THE FACT THAT
HIS WORDS AND
ACTIONS GRATE ON
OTHERS...

THIS MANNER
THAT CAUSES
EVERY FIBER
OF MY BEING TO
SCREAM OUT IN
REJECTION...

SOMETHING
ABOUT
MANABE'S
MANNER THAT
REMINDS ME
OF SOMEONE.

Ha
ha
ha!

I HAVE
TO GO
HOME AND
CHANGE. I'M
LATE FOR
WORK!

OH,
CRAP!

MANABE-KUN!
ONCE YOU'VE BEEN
SWORN IN AS VICE
PRESIDENT, YOU
WILL HAVE TO CUT
DOWN ON PART-TIME
WORK! YOUR DUTY
TO THE SCHOOL
AND YUKI-KUN MUST
COME FIRST.

I KNOW, I
KNOW! BUT
UNTIL THEN...

LOOK AT
THE TIME!
THIS IS BAD--
I'M GONNA
BE LATE!

MANABE-KUN!
YOU WILL
PLEASE STOP
TREATING
YUKI-KUN SO
ROUGHLY!

EEHH?!

THE
HONORABLE
VICE PRESIDENT
IS RETURNING
HOME!

PLEASE
SEND HIM OFF
PROPERLY!

YEAH,
YEAH. LATER,
MACHI!!

REST ASSURED
THAT I WILL CONTINUE
TO SEARCH FOR ONLY
PEOPLE OF GREAT
TALENT AND CHARACTER
TO FILL THE TWO
REMAINING OFFICES.

I SEE THAT ALL
THE TIME I PUT
INTO SELECTING
JUST THE RIGHT
TEAM PAID OFF!

SO ALL
OF THAT
SELECTING
AND
RESELECTING
...?

Ohh!

YOU'RE SO
IMPRESSED,
YOU'RE
SPEECHLESS?!

Chaka-
chaka-cha-
cha-cha

Chaka-
chaka-cha-
cha-cha

I...VERY
WELL.

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO IT!

YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW HAPPY I AM
TO HEAR THAT!
I, MAKOTO TAKEI,
WOULD THROW
AWAY MY LIFE IN
THE NAME OF
YUKI-KUN!



YOU REALLY DO...

...LOOK LIKE A GIRL.

...I'D SAY YOU'RE MORE PINK.

PAT

YUKI-CHAN.



THIS GUY...

HE'S MAKING FLIN OF ME!



IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M SURPRISED YOU ACCEPTED A POSITION ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

I WAS DRAWN IN BY THE TERM "SCHOOL DEFENSE FORCE."

I'M BUSY WITH LOTS OF PART-TIME JOBS.

IT'S ROUGH, YOU KNOW?



SO THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT...?

AS THE PRESIDENT, YOU'RE THE LEADER, SO YOU'D HAVE TO BE RED, OF COURSE.

BUT YOU DON'T REALLY FIT THAT IMAGE.

IF YOU ASK ME...



HUH...?

THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE LIKE THE DEFENDERS OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE AT SCHOOL, RIGHT? SO, SCHOOL DEFENSE FORCE! I REALLY DIG THAT *SENTAI** STUFF.

BUT, IF WE REALLY ARE A *SENTAI* GROUP, SHOULDN'T WE GIVE EVERYONE THEIR OWN COLOR?

IN THAT CASE, I GET DIBS ON BLACK. IT'S COOL BECAUSE IT'S LIKE AN OUTLAW!

**sentai*: costumed superheroes, like the Power Rangers or Kamen Rider.

But...

DON'T LET
THAT AFFECT
YOUR OPINION
OF ME. LET'S
BE FRIENDS!

THANKS
FOR SEE-
ING ME
OFF.

NEXT
TIME, LET'S
TALK MORE,
KAY?

SORRY IF I
MADE YOU
MAD.

I'M
BASICALLY
AN IDIOT...

...SO I DO
THAT A
LOT.

HUH...

I DIDN'T
EXPECT
THAT.

I SEE...

?!

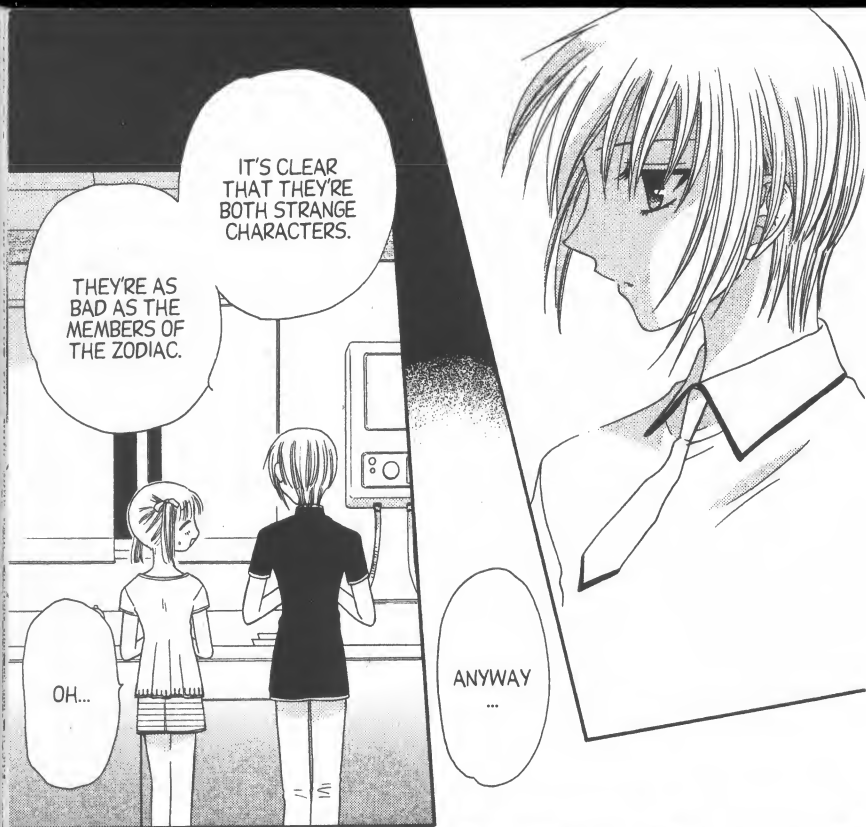
YOU
KNOW...

WELL,
EXCUSE
ME...

...FOR
LOOKING
LIKE A
GIRL!

I HATE
HIM!

...YOU'RE
A PRETTY
INTERESTING
GUY!



THEY'RE AS
BAD AS THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC.

IT'S CLEAR
THAT THEY'RE
BOTH STRANGE
CHARACTERS.

OH...

ANYWAY
...



?

...HE MIGHT
HAVE JUST
MEANT THAT
I'M FUN TO
TEASE...

I MUST
SAY...

BUT...

IT SEEMS
LIKE YOU
HAVE A LOT
TO DEAL
WITH.

AM I GOING
TO HAVE TO
BRING PEOPLE
LIKE THAT
TOGETHER?



WHERE'S...

...KURAGI-
SAN?

MANABE-KUN
ESPECIALLY. YOU
COULD SAY HE'S
A MANIFESTATION
OF THE PAPER-
THIN DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN IDIOCY
AND GENIUS.



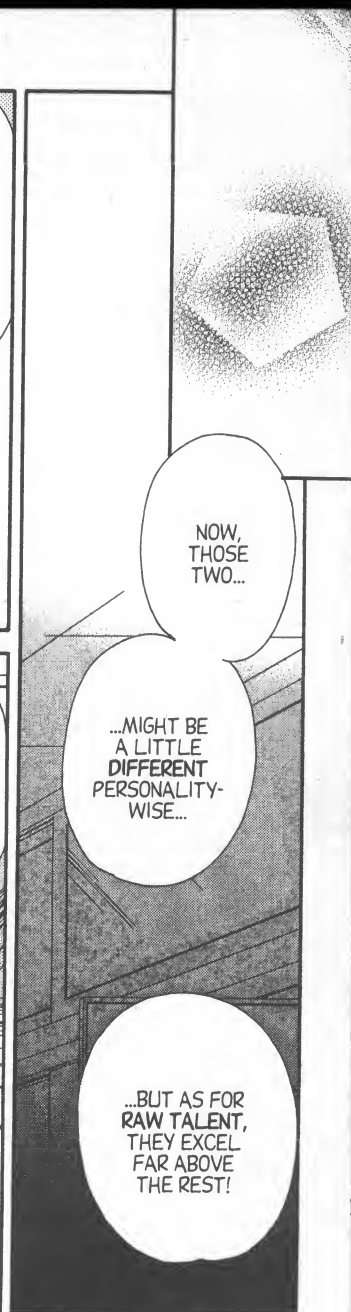
I WONDER
WHAT SHE
WAS DOING?

OH, KURAGI-
KUN JUST
WENT HOME!

So you
see...

THAT'S
SOME WAY OF
CLEANING UP...

Not that I
can talk.



NOW,
THOSE
TWO...

...MIGHT BE
A LITTLE
DIFFERENT
PERSONALITY-
WISE...

...BUT AS FOR
RAW TALENT,
THEY EXCEL
FAR ABOVE
THE REST!

IT SOUNDS
LIKE YOU
HAVE SOME
FUN TIMES
IN STORE!

...OR SOME-
THING.

OF COURSE
THERE WILL
BE SOME
CHALLENGES...

...BUT IF YOU
SEE THEM
THROUGH...

...I'M SURE
MANY FUN
ADVENTURES
ARE WAITING
FOR YOU.

AT LEAST,
THAT'S THE
FEELING I GET.

...

THAT REALLY
WAS THE
FIRST TIME...

...I'D BEEN
TOLD ANY-
THING LIKE
THAT.

SO IT
MADE
ME A
LITTLE...

.....

"YOU'RE
A PRETTY
INTERESTING
GUY!"

I WAS...

...A LITTLE
TAKEN
ABACK.

...HAPPY.

Chapter 50



WHILE BEING
HURT...





BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

We've arrived at Chapter 50! My feelings upon arriving at this milestone are... "Wow, I've drawn a lot."



WELCO--

AH.

LIO-CHAN!

No fair!

WHILE I'M STUCK HERE, WORKING MY ASS OFF, YOU TWO GO ON A DATE?

OH NO... WE'RE NOT ALONE...

I WANTED...



...TO WATCH YOU FOREVER.



AH HA HA! IS THIS FOR REAL?!

IS THERE REALLY SOMEONE WHO DOES THE SAME THINGS SHE DOES?!

Ah ha hya hya!

I DON'T KNOW WHY.

Hee hee!

OH, I'M SORRY. OH, THAT WAS FUNNY. YOU REALLY SHOULD PUT ALL THAT IN A BASKET.

...BUT YOU WERE LAUGHING SO HAPPILY!

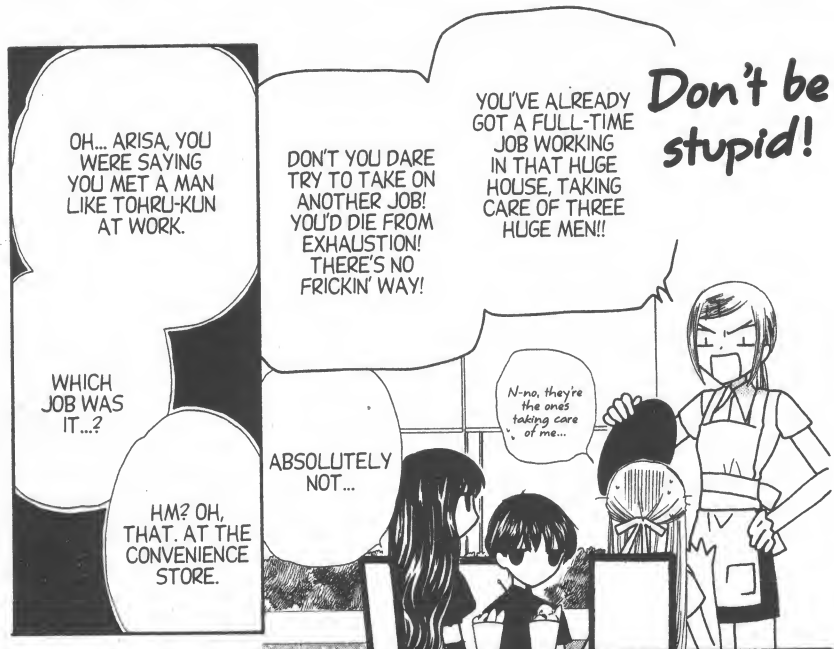
Ah...
YEAH...

Oh, that was funny!

HERE. NOW TRY NOT TO BE SO ABSENT-MINDED.

Ah hya hya...

AND IT WAS SO PLEASANT.



Fruits Basket 9
Part 2:

So I bought a new tracing table. People kept telling me, "Buy a new one!" "That one's too small," "No manga artist has such a cheap tracing table these days," etc. I finally gave in. My old one was pretty cheap... I chose it and bought it when I was drawing the first chapter of Gen'ei Musou, which I will never forget. I had no money, but I wanted to buy the best one I could.

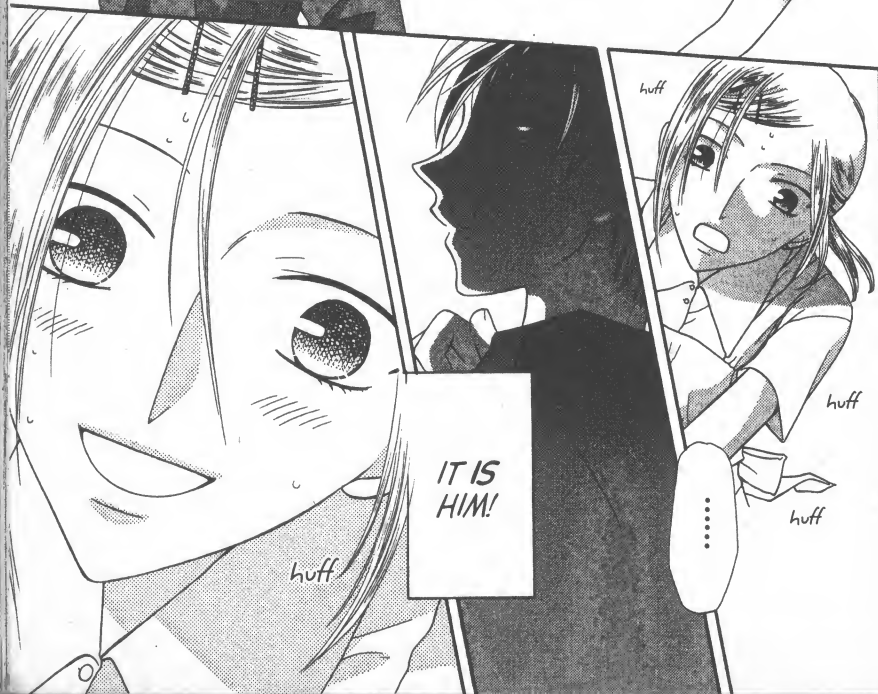
To be continued...



*monja-yaki: A pan-fried pancake of mixed vegetables and meat, similar to okonomiyaki, only without the egg.

WAIT!

snap





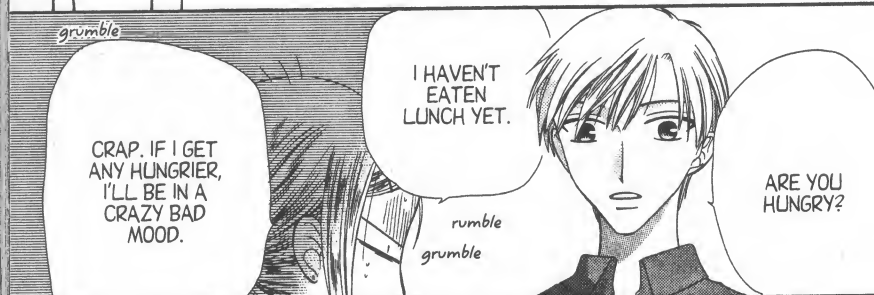
COULD
IT BE...

...THAT
SHE'S BEEN
THINKING OF
ME AS MUCH
AS I'VE BEEN
THINKING
OF HER?

Heat's
getting
to me.

...SO, WITHOUT
THINKING,
I JUST TOOK
OFF IN
PURSUIT.

AH HA HA! I'M
NOT MAKING ANY
SENSE, AM I?!



CRAP. IF I GET
ANY HUNGRIER,
I'LL BE IN A
CRAZY BAD
MOOD.

I HAVEN'T
EATEN
LUNCH YET.

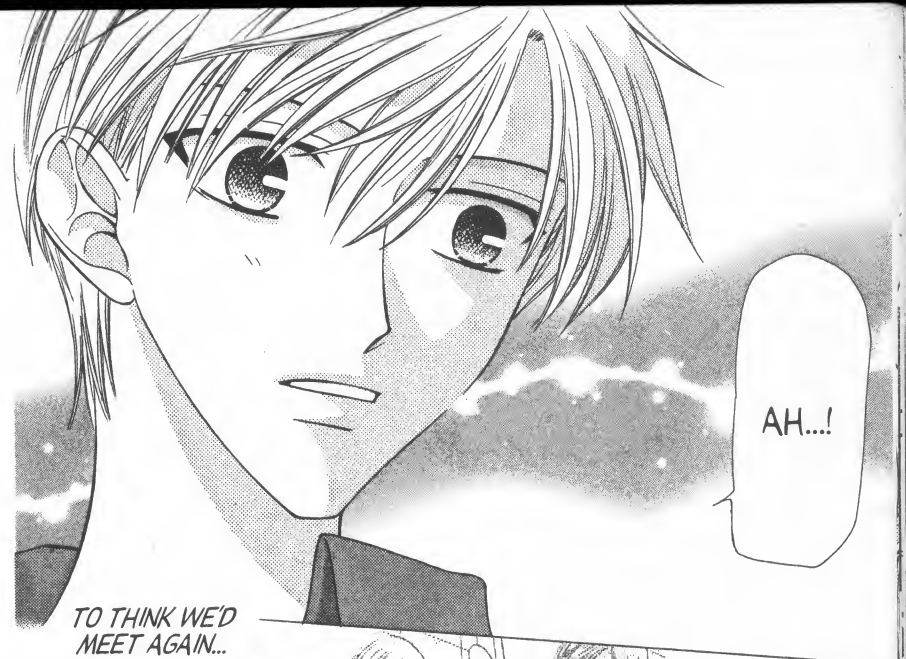
ARE YOU
HUNGRY?



MY
TREAT.

SINCE YOU'RE
HERE, WHY
DON'T WE EAT
TOGETHER?

NO WORRIES. IT
IS LUNCHTIME.
I HAVEN'T
EATEN EITHER.



AH...!

TO THINK WED
MEET AGAIN...



UM...YOU'RE
THE GIRL
FROM THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

YUP!
THAT'S ME,
ALL RIGHT.

THIS IS SUCH A
COINCIDENCE.
I'M SURPRISED.

ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE
GASPING...

I'M OKAY.
JUST A
LITTLE OUT
OF BREATH.

I SAW YOU
FROM BEHIND
AND I DIDN'T
WANT TO LOSE
SIGHT OF YOU...



SO, WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS NECK OF THE WOODS, KURENO-SAN?

I'M UOTANI. ARISA UOTANI.

NOTHING, REALLY. I JUST KINDA WANDERED INTO THE AREA.

For no particular reason.



Thank you.

I FINALLY GOT SOME TIME OFF WORK...

...BUT I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO.

SO I WAS KILLING TIME BY WALKING AROUND.



HEY.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?

MY NAME...? KURENO.

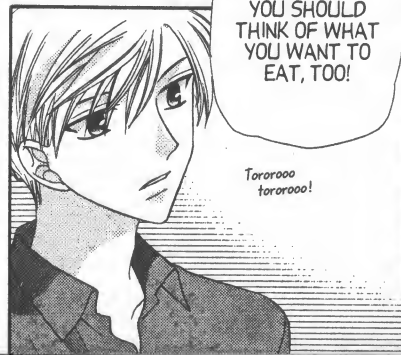


UM... OKAY.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!

THE SHOP'LL GET CROWDED!

TORORO SOBA IS MY FAVORITE THING RIGHT NOW!



YOU SHOULD THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT, TOO!

Tororooo tororooo!



REALLY?

REALLY.

I HAVEN'T PROPERLY APOLOGIZED FOR WHAT HAPPENED AT THE STORE.

YES! WAIT FOR ME, TORORO SOBA*!

Free meal! Yahoo!

EH? YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH JUST TORORO SOBA?

**tororo soba: grated yam noodles*

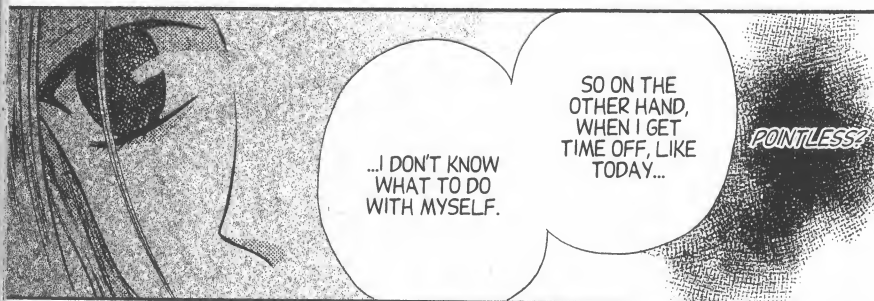


AS HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED,
I LIVE AND
I WORK.

BECAUSE
IT'S A WASTE
OF MY TIME.

I USUALLY
DON'T DO
POINTLESS
THINGS.

IT REALLY WAS
UNUSUAL THAT
I WENT TO THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE THAT
NIGHT.



...I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO
WITH MYSELF.

SO ON THE
OTHER HAND,
WHEN I GET
TIME OFF, LIKE
TODAY...

POINTLESS?



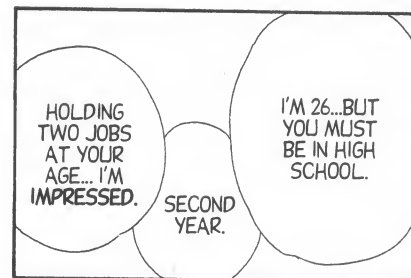
I HAVE
EVERYTHING
I WANT. I'M
CONTENT.

ARE YOU
HAPPY...

I'M
SURE...

I'M
HAPPY.

...LIVING
LIKE
THAT?



HOLDING
TWO JOBS
AT YOUR
AGE... I'M
IMPRESSED.

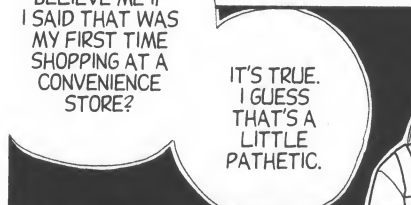
SECOND
YEAR.

I'M 26...BUT
YOU MUST
BE IN HIGH
SCHOOL.



*Not that
impressive.*

NINE YEAR
DIFFERENCE...
IS THIS A
LITTLE
CRIMINAL?



WOULD YOU
BELIEVE ME IF
I SAID THAT WAS
MY FIRST TIME
SHOPPING AT A
CONVENIENCE
STORE?

IT'S TRUE.
I GUESS
THAT'S A
LITTLE
PATHETIC.



ARE YOU
WORKING
TODAY, TOO?

I WORK
THERE AND
AT THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

AH...
YEAH. AT
THE COFFEE
SHOP.



BUT, WELL,
TO HAVE NEVER
BOUGHT ANY-
THING FROM A
CONVENIENCE
STORE--AT 26--
AND A BEING A
GUY--!! HOW?!

AH HA HA!
NOTHING
LIKE THAT.

WHAT ARE
YOU?! ARE
YOU REALLY
THE RULER
OF SOME
KINGDOM OR
SOMETHING?!

*Uo-chan, you're stereo-
typing a bit.*



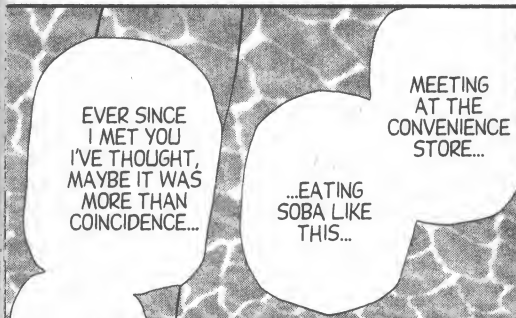
...DURING
THAT
WASTED
TIME.

EVEN
THOUGH
YOU AND
I MET...



...BUT THAT
DIDN'T
FEEL LIKE
A WASTE
OF TIME
TO ME!

MAYBE
I'M JUST A
STUPID GIRL...



EVER SINCE
I MET YOU
I'VE THOUGHT,
MAYBE IT WAS
MORE THAN
COINCIDENCE...

MEETING
AT THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE...

...EATING
SOBA LIKE
THIS...

...THAT
YOU
BUMPED
INTO ME.

I COULDN'T
GET YOU
OUT OF MY
MIND.



IT'S AN
INCREDIBLY
LONELY
SMILE.

I'M
SORRY!

I'M SURE
IT WAS
POINTLESS.



IN THAT
CASE...

...YOU
SHOULD LOOK
HAPPIER WHEN
YOU SMILE.

...I'M MORE
CONTENT
THAN
ANYONE.



THAT
SMILE
OF HIS...

I FELT IT...

EH
...?

...TODAY...

...AND
WHEN
I FIRST
SAW HIM.

どかん
GURK!

ARISA,
WAIT!

WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK YOU
CAN START
CALLING ME BY
MY FIRST NAME,
BASTARD?!

EH?
BUT--

DON'T FOLLOW
ME, DON'T TALK
TO ME--I'M MAD
AS HELL RIGHT
NOW!

PLEASE,
CALM DOWN.

I'M NOT
CRYING!!

OKAY...?
PLEASE
DON'T CRY.

AND SORRY...

...FOR NOT
BEING ABLE
TO MAKE
YOU SMILE...

...LIKE YOU
WERE HAVING
FUN!

...SA!

...I WAS
HAPPY!

BECAUSE,
I THOUGHT,
MAYBE OUR
MEETING
MEANT
SOMETHING.

BECAUSE
...

I DON'T KNOW
WHY, BUT IT
REALLY PISSES
ME OFF!

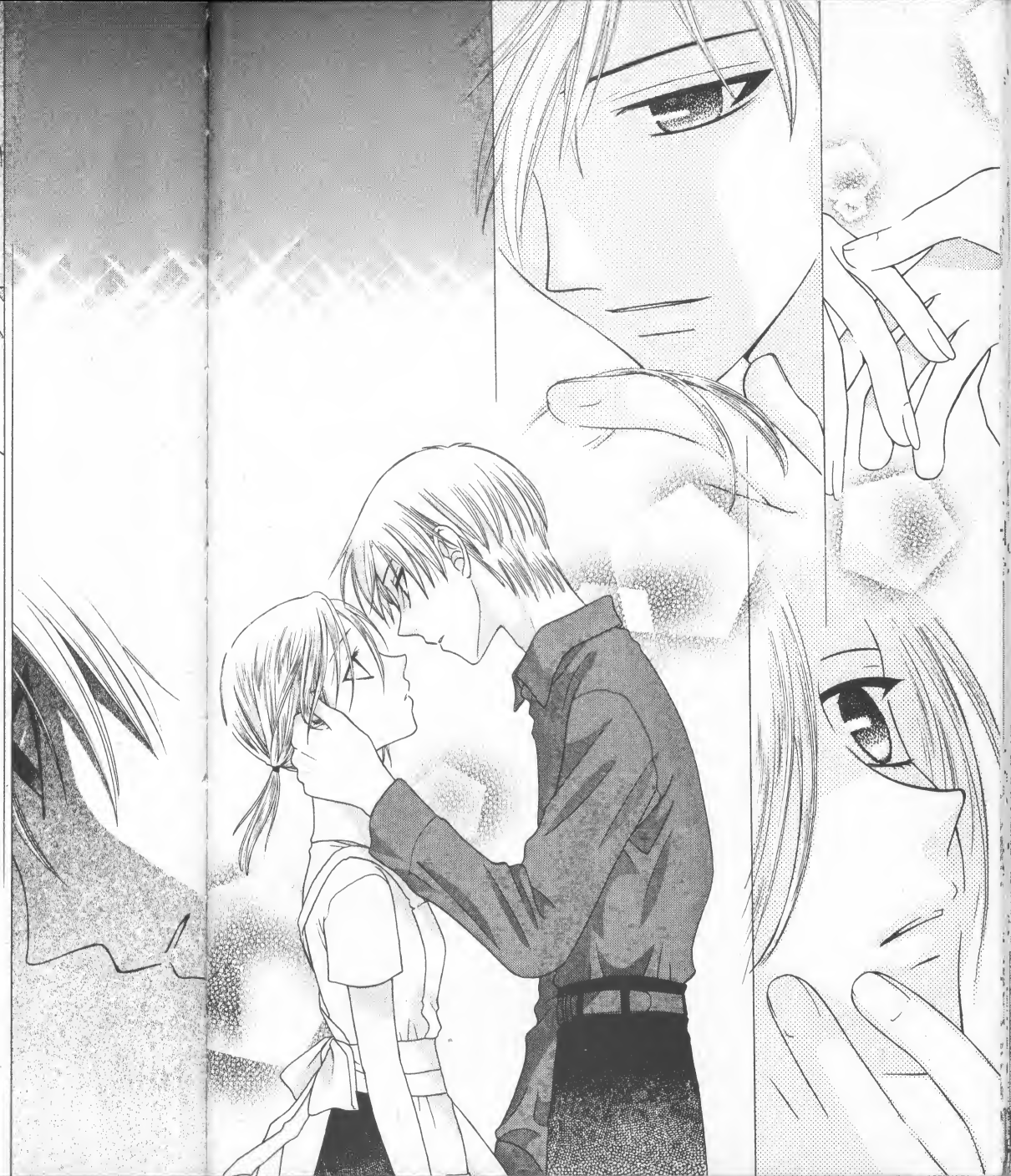
WELL, SORRY
FOR WASTING
YOUR TIME!

AND
SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WASTE YOUR
MONEY, BUYING
ME LUNCH!

THAT
PISSES
ME OFF!

THANKS! I'M
LEAVING!







BUT I
HAVE TO
ADMIT...

I WONDER IF
HE'S WORRIED
ABOUT THE AGE
DIFFERENCE...

IS NINE
YEARS IS
TOO BIG A
DIFFERENCE...?

...IT FEELS A
LITTLE BIT
LONELY...

...KNOWING
THAT ONE OF
MY FRIENDS
MAY HAVE
FOUND HER
SPECIAL
SOMEONE.

MY MOM AND
DAD WERE
EIGHT YEARS
APART, BUT
I HEAR THEY
WERE VERY
MUCH IN LOVE!



OF
COURSE...

WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?! YOU'LL
BE SOMEONE'S
GIRLFRIEND BEFORE
YOU KNOW IT! THEN
HE'LL DEFINITELY
WANT TO KEEP YOU
ALL TO HIMSELF!

AS IF WE'LL
LET HIM. WE'RE
DEFINITELY
CRASHING THEIR
FIRST DATE,
AREN'T WE,
HANAJIMA?!



...HE JUST
SAID...

... "I LOVE YOU."

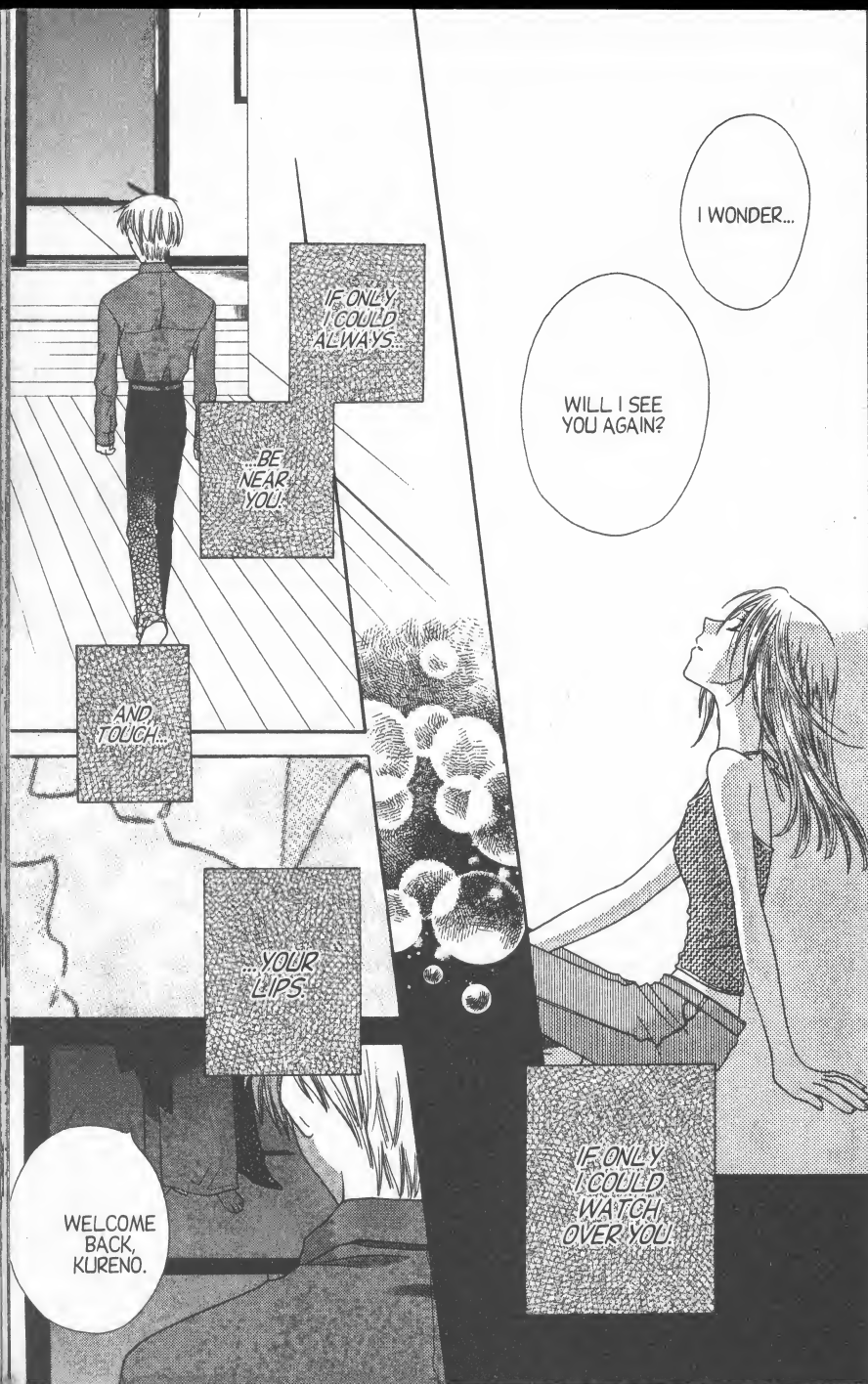
SO,
ARISA-
SAN...

AND WHY DID HE
LEAVE WITHOUT A
WORD?! WHAT?! DID
I HAVE YAM BREATH,
OR SOMETHING?!

...DO YOU
LIKE HIM,
TOO...?

I don't
know!

HE'S
MYSTERIOUS!
AND HE DOESN'T
ALWAYS MAKE
SENSE!



I'M ALL RIGHT.

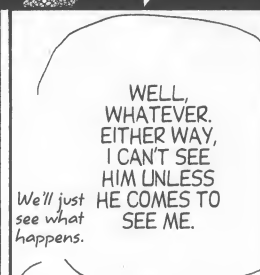


ARE YOU LONELY...?

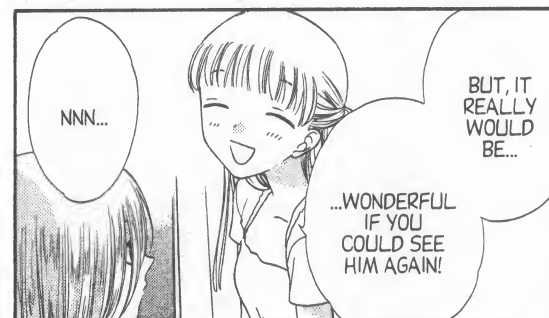


UGH... IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M CALLING IT OFF, RIGHT THERE.

...HE'S MARRIED WITH CHILDREN...?



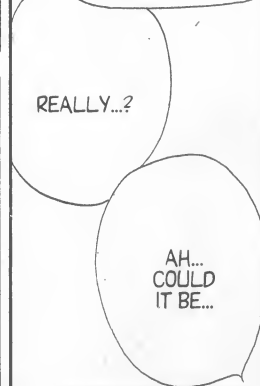
WELL, WHATEVER. EITHER WAY, I CAN'T SEE HIM UNLESS HE COMES TO SEE ME.
We'll just see what happens.



NNN...

BUT, IT REALLY WOULD BE...

...WONDERFUL IF YOU COULD SEE HIM AGAIN!



REALLY...?

AH... COULD IT BE...



Chapter 51





WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE,
I HATED
GOING
OUTSIDE...

...AND IT
MADE ME
FEEL SICK
INSIDE.

...BECAUSE
I WOULD HEAR
THE VOICES OF
HEARTS THAT
I DIDN'T WANT
TO HEAR.

I WOULD
HEAR SO
MANY...

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 3

The reason middle-school Arisa doesn't have blonde hair in this chapter is that she went back to her original color. She's rehabilitating...

I feel so
grateful.

SHE SAYS,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!!

They can't see
it if you block it.
Ayame-san!

Harada-sama, Araki-
sama, Kawaai-sama,
Mom, Dad and everyone
who reads and supports
this manga, thanks so
much for your support!

And thanks for the
Valentine's chocolate
and presents!



And next it's Kisa's turn.

—Natsuki Takaya





IT'S SO STRANGE. SAKI IS THE ONLY ONE IN OUR FAMILY WITH A POWER LIKE THAT.

WE CAN'T JUST TAKE HER TO THE HOSPITAL. IT MIGHT ONLY HURT SAKI-CHAN MORE.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT SAKI'S FUTURE.

SHE'LL HAVE TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF A SPECIAL GIFT THAT OTHER PEOPLE DON'T HAVE.

IT'S A POWER...

...THAT OTHER PEOPLE WON'T UNDERSTAND.

THE VOICES ARE OVERWHELMING.

SHE'S BEEN THIS WAY EVER SINCE SHE WAS BORN.

IT'S FRUSTRATING THAT WE CAN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING TO EASE THE PAIN.



IT'S ALL RIGHT, HONEY.

LET'S GO HOME, OKAY?

...SHE DOESN'T... FEEL GOOD...

SHE SAID...

!

SAKI!

SAKI-CHAN!

I'M SORRY. WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE OKAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

flap flap flap

SO NOISY...

SAKI-CHAAAAAN!

COME ON! HURRY UP!





MY SISTER
TOLD ME THAT
WITCHES EAT
LIVE NEWTS!

EAT IT.
YOU'RE
A WITCH,
AREN'T YOU?

SOMETHING
TERRIBLE.

EAT IT!!

EE...



HEY,
WHAT
ARE
YOU...

HOLD
HER
DOWN!

PUT IT
IN HER
MOUTH!

IN HER
MOUTH!

E E E K !

C'MON!
DO IT!

I...WOULD
NEVER...

...EAT THI...

squish



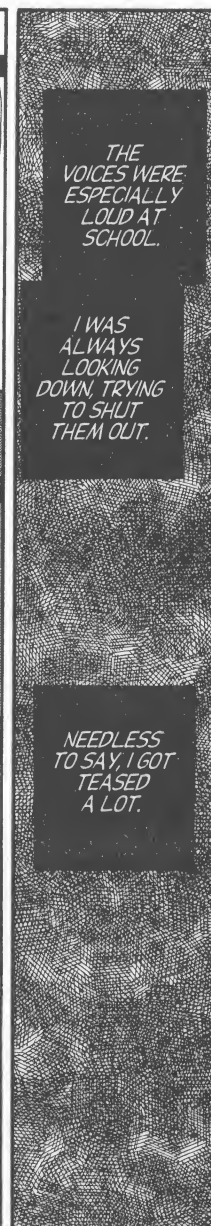
EW!! STAY
AWAY! DON'T
TOUCH ME,
WITCH!

Nah-
nah!

I DON'T WANT
YOUR WITCHY
GERMS, WITCH!

AND
THEN...

...I DID IT.



THE
VOICES WERE
ESPECIALLY
LOUD AT
SCHOOL...

I WAS
ALWAYS
LOOKING
DOWN, TRYING
TO SHUT
THEM OUT.

NEEDLESS
TO SAY, I GOT
TEASED
A LOT.



A WITCH!
SHE'S A
WITCH!

SAY
SOMETHING,
WITCH!

C'MON,
GUYS, CUT
IT OUT.

BUT SHE'S
REALLY A
WITCH.

SHE'S ALL
GLOOMY
AND DOESN'T
TALK.

SCHOOL
WAS
AGONY.

Why does
that make
her a
witch?



DIE!

I HATE YOU.

I REALLY
HATE YOU.

I WISH YOU
WOULD DIE...

DIE...

DIE...

BE QUIET...

I'M A
WITCH...

WHAT
ARE YOU?

IS IT OKAY FOR
YOU TO DO
SOMETHING SO
TERRIBLE?

BE QUIET.



EWV!

SHE ATE
IT! SHE
REALLY
ATE IT!

SHE PUT
IT IN HER
MOUTH
JUST NOW!

STOP IT!
LEAVE HER
ALONE!

SHE
REALLY IS
A WITCH!
SCARY!



THAT'S WHY
HE ALMOST
DIED...

BECAUSE I...

...WILLED
HIM TO DIE
WITH ALL
MY HEART...

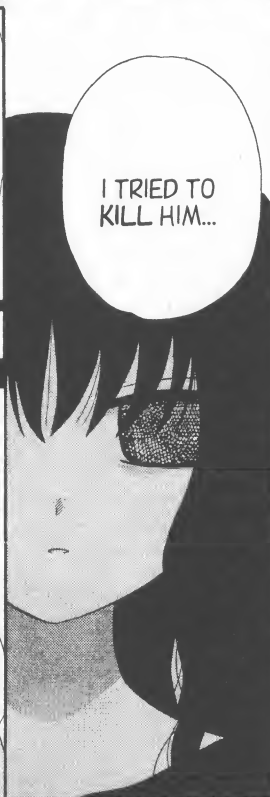
HOW MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU...?



BUT,
SAKI-CHAN,
THERE'S NO
PROOF THAT
YOUR POWER IS
THE CAUSE.

THERE'S NO
PROOF THAT
IT WASN'T
MY POWER,
EITHER...

OH,
SAKI...



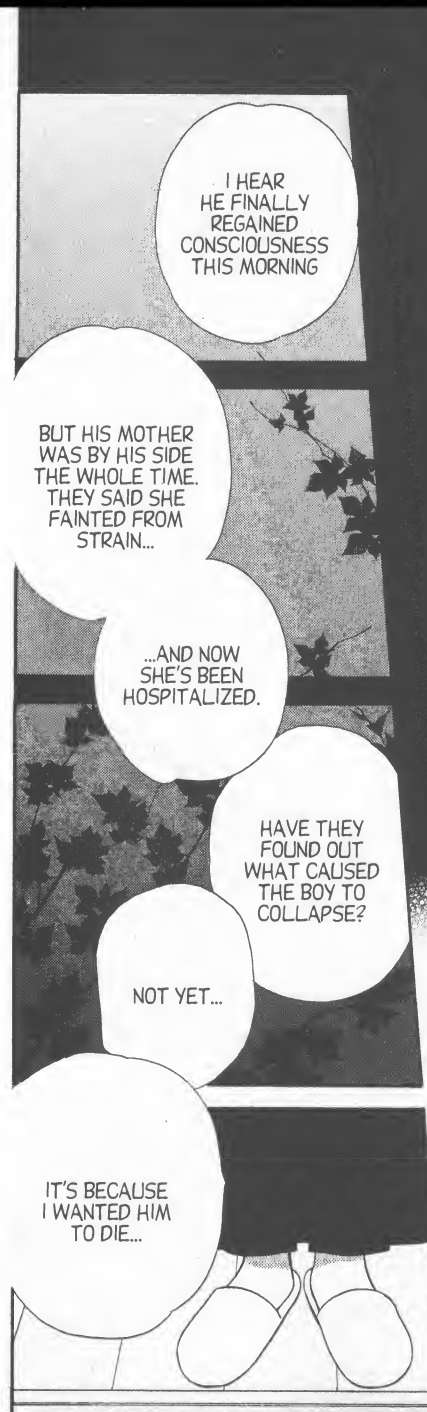
I TRIED TO
KILL HIM...



SAKI-CHAN,
THAT'S--

WHEN WILL
YOU TAKE
ME TO THE
POLICE...?

WHEN
WILL THEY
PUT ME IN
PRISON...?



I HEAR
HE FINALLY
REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS
THIS MORNING

BUT HIS MOTHER
WAS BY HIS SIDE
THE WHOLE TIME.
THEY SAID SHE
FAINTED FROM
STRAIN...

...AND NOW
SHE'S BEEN
HOSPITALIZED.

HAVE THEY
FOUND OUT
WHAT CAUSED
THE BOY TO
COLLAPSE?

NOT YET...

IT'S BECAUSE
I WANTED HIM
TO DIE...



Fruits Basket 9
Part 3:

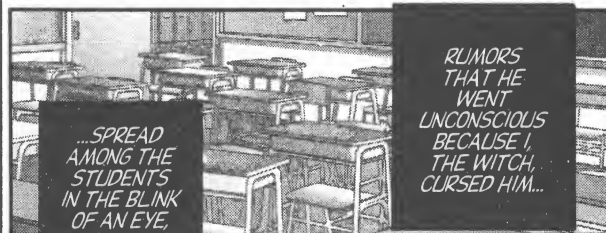
Continued...

Yup. Over the years that table had absorbed my blood, sweat, and tears...I don't really like that phrase. Anyway, it was my beloved table that had worked hard with me for nearly eight years. You understand why it was so hard to let go? The new tracing table is enshrined on my desk, but I couldn't throw the old one away, so it's at my feet. Sometimes I kick it, though.



...I STARTED WEARING NOTHING BUT BLACK.

FROM THAT DAY ON...



...SPREAD AMONG THE STUDENTS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, AND I WAS OSTRACIZED EVEN MORE.

RUMORS THAT HE WENT UNCONSCIOUS BECAUSE I, THE WITCH, CURSED HIM...



MY BLACK CLOTHES ONLY SERVED TO REAFFIRM THEIR CONVICTION.



HANAJIMA-SAN, WHY IS YOUR BOOK SO WORN OUT AND DIRTY?



I'M SCARED...

I REALLY ...

...THOUGHT THAT I HAD... KILLED HIM...

NO MORE.

IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN...

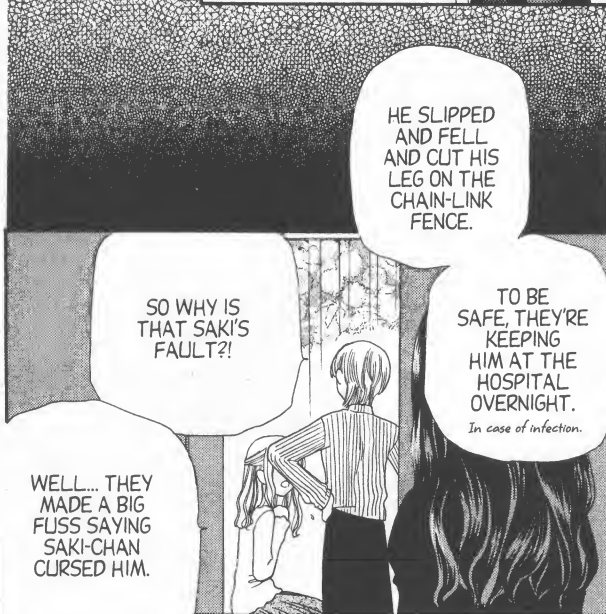
...I MIGHT KILL HIM FOR REAL...

I DON'T WANT TO WISH...

...FOR ANYONE'S DEATH EVER AGAIN.

Fruits Basket 9
Part 4:

This is about dreams. Until now, none of the characters from my stories have appeared in my dreams, but I guess because I've been working on Furuba for so long, for the first time Yuki and Kyo appeared. There they were, just walking by minding their own business. I thought, "Why isn't Tohru in my dream?" I was impressed to see them in three dimensions. No, it was a dream though. And never again! (laugh)



...BUT I SHOULD
RECEIVE SOME
FORM OF
PUNISHMENT...

DO YOU
THINK YOU
DESERVE TO BE
PUNISHED...?

FOR THE
SIN OF...

...WISHING SO
DEEPLY AND
WICKEDLY FOR
SOMEONE'S
DEATH.

...CAN'T
JUDGE ME...

THE
POLICE...

OF
COURSE
I DESERVE
IT...

SAKI...

IS THAT
ALL YOU
WANT OUT
OF LIFE?

DO YOU
PLAN TO
LIVE YOUR
WHOLE
LIFE...

...AS IF
PEOPLE
EXIST TO
PUNISH
YOU...?

YOU'LL
SCARE
MOTHER...

MEGUMI...
YOU'RE READING
THOSE BOOKS
AGAIN...?

OBABA* SAID
THAT THEY
MIGHT HELP
EXPLAIN SAKI'S
POWER, SO SHE
BOUGHT A LOT
OF THEM...

*Obaba = Granny

That's
absurd!

fug

IT WASN'T
SAKI'S POWER
THAT MADE
THE BOY AT
DAYCARE
GET HURT...

AND THE
TEASING...
WHY DO YOU
JUST STAND
THERE AND
TAKE IT...?

DON'T
WORRY... I'M
BETTER AT
GETTING ON IN
THE WORLD
THAN SAKI...

YOU'LL GET
TEASED AT
SCHOOL... FOR
SAYING THINGS
LIKE THAT...

THEY'RE VERY
INTERESTING
...

WHY IS SAKI
ALWAYS SO
QUIET...?



PLEASE...

IT
SEEMED
LIKE...



...SUCH AN
ABSURD
PRAYER.

IF YOU'RE IN
A FAR OFF
COUNTRY,
THEN GET ON
A PLANE.

HURRY.

COME TO
SAKI...

...AS FAST
AS YOU
CAN.

...

SO, WHO-
EVER YOU
ARE...

...PLEASE
COME TO
MEET HER...

...IN THIS
WORLD...

...IN THIS
WORLD, OVER-
FLOWING WITH
PEOPLE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT THERE'S
NOT ONE PERSON
OUT THERE...

...WHO
WOULDN'T
LOVE SAKI.



THEN...

...I WILL
PRAY.



BECAUSE
THERE'S
NO WAY...

...THAT SAKI
IS MEANT TO
BE ALONE
HER WHOLE
LIFE...



SCARY ...

I HEAR SHE
ALMOST
KILLED
SOMEONE...

IT'S A
TRUE
STORY.

HANAJIMA!

AREN'T YOU
GOING TO SEND
OUT SOME
POISON WAVES
TODAY?



SHE
COMMUNI-
CATES WITH
WAVES?

SHE'D BE
SCARY EVEN IF
SHE DID TALK,
WITH THAT
DEEP, CREEPY
VOICE OF HERS.

SHE
DOESN'T
REACT, SHE
DOESN'T
TALK...

NOTHING
CHANGED
WHEN
I WENT
TO MIDDLE
SCHOOL..



JUST
HOLD
HER
TIGHT!

UH...ARE
YOU SURE WE
SHOULD BE
DOING THIS?

C'MON!
SHOW ME.
DO IT!

IS IT TRUE
THAT WHEN
YOU GET MAD,
YOU SEND
OUT POISON
WAVES?

AND THE
VOICES
KEPT
GETTING
STRONGER.



...THAT
ONCE THERE,
WOULD NEVER
DISAPPEAR.

I THOUGHT
THAT SOME
PRAYERS
COULD
NEVER BE
ANSWERED...

GO HOME,
WITCH! WE
DON'T WANT
YOU AT
SCHOOL!

YEAH,
YOU'RE
CREEPY!
AND
STUPID!

...JUST
AS SOME
STAINS...



THANK
GOODNESS

CRAP!

Where's our
lookout?

SHE...EVEN
BURNED
HER ARM!

TEACHER!
HANAJIMA-SAN
WAS PLAYING
WITH MATCHES!

WE TRIED
TO STOP
HER, BUT...

slump

WHAT ARE
YOU KIDS
DOING HERE?
SCHOOL'S
OVER!

EVERYONE...

...IS SAFE.

LET'S
MOVE.



I MUSTN'T
THINK ABOUT
ANYTHING.

FOCUS ON
THE PAIN AND
EMPTY YOUR
MIND.

THIS
SUCKS.

C'MON,
HANAJIMA-
CHAN, GET
MAD!

NO, I DON'T
WANT ANYONE
TO DIE.

I DON'T
WANT TO
KILL THEM...

I CAN'T.
PLEASE, DON'T
HURT ANYONE.

NO!

DON'T TELL
ME YOU'RE
SCARED
OF HER?

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
DYING.

!

ME, TOO!
I DON'T
CARE IF
I DIE!

NOW, SINCE
EVERYONE'S
WILLING
TO DIE...

LET'S
TURN
UP THE
HEAT!

BUT
I HEARD
THAT IF
YOU'RE HIT
BY THEM,
YOU'LL
REALLY
DIE.



...DON'T
GIVE UP
YET.

SO
PLEASE...

WE LOVE
YOU...

...SAKI.

SAKI...

WITH
SUMMER
STILL FAR
OFF...

...I
CHANGED
SCHOOLS.



TAKE THIS
OFF AT
ONCE!

AND
ON YOUR
FIRST DAY
AT A NEW
SCHOOL!

HANAJIMA-
SAN! YOUR
FINGERNAILS!



SAKI-
CHAN!

MOVE
WITHOUT
ME...

I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU DON'T
WANT TO BLAME
THEM, SAKI...

I DON'T...

OH, SAKI...

YOU POOR
GIRL... IT'S NO
TROUBLE.

...WANT
TO CAUSE
ANY MORE
TROUBLE...

...BUT WE DON'T
WANT TO LEAVE
YOU WITH
THOSE GIRLS.

WE
DON'T WANT
YOU IN THIS
ENVIRONMENT.



PARENTS
ALWAYS
WORRY
ABOUT THEIR
CHILDREN.

WE COULD
NEVER JUST
MOVE AWAY
AND LEAVE
YOU BEHIND.

IT'S WHAT
WE DO. IT'S
LOVE.

LET'S GO
TO A NEW
ENVIRONMENT,
WITH A NEW
SCHOOL.



HERE!

WHAT DON'T
YOU WANT ME
TO GIVE UP...

...FATHER...?



Kya
ha
ha!

DON'T
GIVE UP
YET.



TODAY YOU
GET A DOUBLE
SERVING FOR
FREE...



...HANAJIMA-
SAN!



WHAT A
STRANGE
ADULT...

ARE YOU
TELLING ME
TO LOSE THE
PROOF THAT
I'M A SINNER...?



*It's
dark
blue

IT'S
BECAUSE
THE UNIFORM
ISN'T BLACK
...

WHAT
NONSENSE
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



If you have
to wear
black, why
don't we
paint your
nails black?
It's stylish.
Obaba
Stylish?



EVEN
IN A NEW
ENVIRONMENT
...

SHE SAYS
THEY'RE PROOF
THAT SHE'S A
SINNER! WHAT
DO YOU WANT
ME TO DO
ABOUT IT?

SENSE!!
HANAJIMA-
SAN'S NAILS
ARE BLACK!



I THOUGHT
I MUSTN'T
FORGET.

I THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE
SHAMELESS.

...I DIDN'T
TRY TO
LOWER
THE WALL
BETWEEN
MYSELF
AND OTHER
PEOPLE.



IN MY CASE, IT MIGHT BE TWO HUNDRED HURTS AND NO GOOD THINGS!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DON'T KNOW IF ANYTHING GOOD COMES FROM ASSOCIATING WITH ME, EITHER...

...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF EATING WITH YOU...

YOU'D BE BETTER OFF NOT ASSOCIATING WITH ME...

YOU WOULD RECEIVE A HUNDRED HURTS AND NOT A SINGLE GOOD THING...

I WASN'T JOKING, AND I DEFINITELY DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE ANYONE DEPRESSED...

Are you listening...?

GIVE IT A REST. WHO CARES ABOUT THE DETAILS?

TODAY YOU'VE CHANGED SCHOOLS, THE WEATHER'S GOOD, AND THERE'S SCHOOL LUNCH.

AND IT'S NOT THAT I WANT YOU TO SET A GOAL....

FROM NOW ON, I'LL DO MY BEST TO BE THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO SPREADS GOODNESS TO ALL AROUND HER!

YES! YOU'RE RIGHT!

stand

WHAT'S THE MATTER, UO-CHAN?

HANAJIMA, HUH? HMM...

HANAJIMA ...

PLEASE, HANAJIMA-SAN, SIT DOWN!

WELL THEN, LET'S HURRY AND START EATING TOGETHER!

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU'RE HANA-CHAN, HANA-CHAN!

THESE TWO ARE WEIRD...

IF KYOKO-SAN WERE HERE...

...YOU'D BE HANA-CHAN!

OH NO... IF I THINK ABOUT THEM TOO MUCH, THEIR VOICES MIGHT REACH ME...

I'M SORRY, BUT...

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

?



wave
wave

WELL THEN,
SEE YOU
TOMORROW!

SEE YA!



WE'LL SEE
YOU AGAIN
TOMORROW,
RIGHT?!

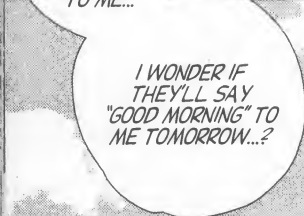
THE PEOPLE
WERE DIFFERENT,
BUT MY CURSE
STILL HADN'T
GONE AWAY.

OF COURSE. SHE
TRANSFERRED
HERE.



THAT'S
THE FIRST
TIME
ANYONE
HAS SAID
THAT
TO ME...

SEE YOU
TOMORROW
...?



I WONDER IF
THEY'LL SAY
"GOOD MORNING"
TO ME TOMORROW...?



WE HAVE P.E.
TODAY, RIGHT?
I HOPE WE GET
TO BE OUTSIDE!



GOOD
MORNING,
HANA-CHAN!

tap
tap
tap



We get
that a lot!



ITADA-
KIMASU!!
THANKS FOR THE
FOOD.

NOW SIT
DOWN AND
EAT WITH US
WEIRDOS!

YOU REALLY
ARE WEIRD...



THE VOICES
I WOULD
SOMETIMES
HEAR...

...YOU TWO
REALLY
WERE
STRANGE.

FROM
THE
MOMENT
I FIRST
MET
YOU...



...THAT
SEEMED TO
BE CRYING
SOFTLY.

YOU
SECRETLY
HELD
VOICES...

...WERE
NEVER JUST
PRETTY
VOICES.

YEAH.

THE
WEATHER
WILL BE NICE
TOMORROW,
TOO...

YES!

OOHH! THE
SUNSET IS
BRIGHT RED
AGAIN TODAY!

ME...
HAPPY.

SUCH
A KIND
COLOR...

I HEARD
THIS FROM
A FRIEND
OF MINE
WHO
GOES TO
YOUR OLD
SCHOOL.

WHEN
I REALIZED
THAT I HAD
ALMOST
FORGOTTEN
MY PLACE...

...IT WAS
IN BETWEEN
TWO SEASONS.

YOU'RE
RIGHT!

UH, UM,
THAT IS--!!

EH?!

THAT IS...
I MEAN...

WHAT'S THIS?
TOHRU, DID
YOU CONFESS
YOUR LOVE OR
SOMETHING?

HA--

FOR THE
FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE,
I FELT
HAPPY.

SO MANY TIMES
SINCE THEN,
I THOUGHT TO
MYSELF THAT
THEY WOULD BE
BETTER OFF IF
THEY DIDN'T
ASSOCIATE
WITH ME.

...BUT BEFORE
I KNEW IT,
WE WERE A
TEAM...

...AND I WAS
HAPPY.



I...I DON'T KNOW. I SUDDENLY GOT THIS SHARP PAIN IN MY HEAD.

Gasps!

OWW!

O-OH NO... WHAT'S WRONG?

"KILL..."

OW!

HANA... JIMA-SAN?

JUST NOW...



...YOU TRIED TO KILL A BOY.

HANA JIMA-SAN, THEY SAY THAT...

...WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...

IS THAT TRUE?

SHE ALSO SAID YOU USED TO BE A TOTAL DELINQUENT, SMOKING AND STUFF.

AND YOU BURNED THE ARM OF A GIRL WHO TRIED TO STOP YOU!

P-POISON WAVES, OR SOMETHING?

WITH SOME KIND OF... WHAT WAS IT?

"TRIED TO KILL A BOY"

YOU WERE SO MUCH TROUBLE, THAT'S WHY THEY TRANSFERRED YOU.

PO...? EH?

I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF...

...BUT SHE SAID IT WAS REALLY SCARY!

I DON'T
WANT
TO HURT
ANYONE
ANYMORE.

WHY WAS
I EVEN
ALIVE?

ALL
I COULD
DO WAS
CAUSE
PEOPLE
PAIN...

I... I REALLY
DO HAVE A
POWER...

SO YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
AROUND ME
ANYMORE...

IT ALMOST
KILLED
SOMEONE...

SO, PLEASE...
JUST LEAVE
ME ALONE...

A SIN THAT
WOULDN'T
DISAPPEAR.

A STAIN THAT
WOULDN'T
WASH AWAY.

*I'M
SCARED.*

DID I...

DID I USE
MY POWER
AGAIN...?

HANA-
CHAN!

*I'M
SCARED...*

NO...

IT
COULDN'T
HAVE
BEEN...

HANA...

50...

YOU
MUSTN'T
COME
NEAR
ME...

STOP
...!

I APOLOGIZE
FOR NOT
TELLING YOU
BEFORE...



I LOVE
YOU...

...HANA-
CHAN.

DONT ASSUME
THAT THINGS
ARE A CERTAIN
WAY CUZ
THAT'S WHAT
PEOPLE
TELL YOU.

DO YOU
WANT TO
LEAVE?

YOU
DECIDE.

I MIGHT
NEVER BE
FORGIVEN.

B--

BUT I...

I...

I MIGHT
HURT
HER



WE'RE...

...SO
CLOSE...

THERE MIGHT
STILL BE A
LOT ABOUT
YOU THAT
I DONT
KNOW, BUT...

WE'RE
BECOMING
SUCH GOOD
FRIENDS.

I DONT
WANT TO BE
SEPARATED!

...PLEASE
DONT LEAVE,
-HANA-CHAN...

HANA-
CHAN...

I LOVE
YOU.



...WANT
TO BE
WITH
YOU...

I DO...



I WANT TO
BE WITH
YOU!

...I NEVER
WALKED
ALONE
AGAIN.



IT WAS SO
BIZARRE...

WHEN
I LOOKED
DOWN...

...THERE
WASN'T JUST
ONE SHADOW
ANYMORE.

FROM
THAT
MOMENT
ON...



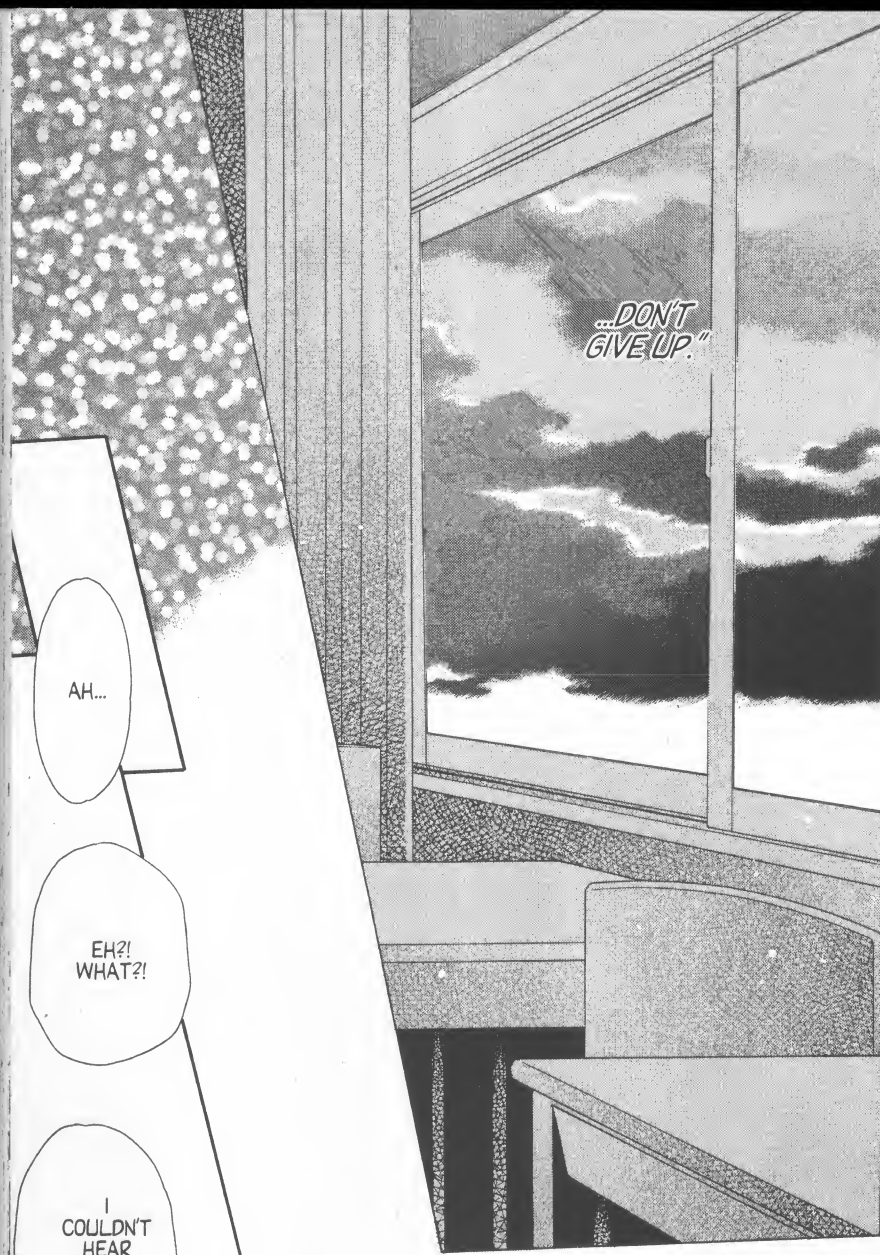
"IT'S WHAT
WE DO. IT'S
LOVE."

THAT
DAY...

...AS I WENT
HOME, AS
I LOOKED UP
AT THE SKY,
AT THE
SETTING SUN...

...IT SEEMED
SO LONELY
THAT IT WAS
TREMBLING.





*...DON'T
GIVE UP."*

AH...

EH?!
WHAT?!

I
COULDN'T
HEAR
THEM...



*"I CAN'T
BELIEVE..."*

*...THAT
THERE'S NOT
ONE PERSON
OUT THERE...*

*"I WILL
PRAY..."*

*...WHO
WOULDN'T
LOVE SAKI!"*

...SO...

*"I WILL
PRAY."*



I HOPE
SOMEDAY,
I CAN
APOLOGIZE.

OBABA
TOLD ME...

...THAT THE
BOY IS DOING
WELL.

SAKI?

HOW LONG
ARE YOU
GOING
TO KEEP
WEARING
BLACK...?

THEY
WOULDN'T
THEY...?

AT THIS POINT,
IF EITHER OF US
WORE YELLOW OR PINK, THE WHOLE
TOWN WOULD BE
IN AN UPROAR...

But an uproar
would be
interesting...

That's
crazy!
Black!

I'VE BEEN WEARING IT
FOR SO LONG, I DON'T
FEEL COMFORTABLE
UNLESS I'M WEARING
THIS COLOR.

THAT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU HAVE
TO KEEP WEARING
BLACK WITH ME,
MEGUMI...

I FEEL MOST
CALM IN THIS
COLOR, TOO...

She's
cute, but
she's a
black!

That's
a lot of
black!

Oh, black!



WHAT?
HOW'D YOU
DO IT?

REALLY?!
SAKI-CHAN!

JUST NOW,
I MADE IT SO
I CAN'T HEAR
THEM...

THAT'S SO
WONDERFUL!



I PROMISED
MYSELF,
I WOULD
NEVER USE
MY POWERS
LIGHTLY...

...BUT I
SUPPOSE
I DID USE
THEM FOR
PUNISHMENT
ONCE OR
TWICE...

WAS IT
BECAUSE
OF THE
COMPOSURE
BORN FROM
A LIFE
FULFILLED?

DID
YOU UNDER-
STAND THAT
EXPLANATION,
MEGUMI?

IT'S SORT
OF LIKE
I WENT "PA!"
AND IT WENT
"SHU"...



THAT WAS
PUNISHMENT?!

Wait a
minute! Hey!

SHE'S SO
CUTE...

IT TOOK ME
A WHILE TO
BE ABLE TO
CONTROL MY
POWER.

BASICALLY,
SHE JUST
GOT THE
HANG OF IT...

AND...

...ALL
THAT
PARENTS
WANT...

...IS FOR
THEIR
CHILDREN
TO BE
HAPPY.

...ALL ANY-
ONE REALLY
WANTS...

...IS TO BE
ACCEPTED BY
OTHERS.

I'M SURE
OF IT.

THAT'S
REALLY
ALL THAT
MATTERS.

WHENEVER I
START TO FEEL
THAT WAY, I
THINK OF WHAT
KYOKO SAID--

HUMAN
BEINGS...

...CAN'T
HELP BUT
WANT OTHER
PEOPLE.

PROBABLY
...

PROBABLY...NO
MATTER HOW
MISERABLE THEIR
SITUATION...

...OR HOW
MUCH THEY'RE
LOVED
BY THEIR
FAMILY...

HURRY UP,
OR WE'LL
LEAVE
WITHOUT
YOU!

HANA-
CHAA!
MEGUMI-
SAAA!

LET'S
GO.

I'M
GRATEFUL
...

TO FATHER,
MOTHER,
OBABA...AND
TO YOU.

THERE ARE
TIMES...

...WHEN MY
HEART FEELS SO
FULL I THINK IT'S
GOING TO BURST.

FATHER AND THE
OTHERS WOULD
ALWAYS BE THERE
WITH A SMILE...

...AND I JUST
THOUGHT THAT
I WAS SELFISH...
AND UNFEELING.

EVEN WITH ALL
THE LOVE THAT MY
FAMILY SHOWED
ME, THAT ALONE
WAS NEVER ENOUGH.

Chapter 52



...BECAUSE
THESE ARE
THE KIND OF
BONDS...

...THAT NEVER
GO AWAY.

SO
SOMEDAY,
WHEN YOU
GIRLS ARE
OLDER...

...EVEN IF
YOU START
TO TAKE
DIFFERENT
PATHS...

...YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE
TO FEEL...

...LONELY OR
UNLOVED...



BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Have you noticed how Kyo is steadily growing taller?
Yuki, too. A lot of readers have noticed this, right?

Fruits Basket 9
Part 5:

This time I'm back to video games. I've finished the PC version of *Harukanaru Toki no Naka de 2*, but I also bought the PS2 version and am playing through that. I really do seem to like this game (laugh). I'm also enjoying playing RPGs as usual, but I'm very hooked on the adventure game *ICO*. Silent kindness, silent loneliness, being so close and yet so far...um, I can't really explain it (laugh). It's a great game. I highly recommend it. As long as I'm recommending things, the *Resident Evil* remake for the GameCube brought back a lot of memories!





IT'S WONDERFUL
THAT YOU SEEM
TO BE DOING
WELL, TOO,
SHISHOU-SAN!

Yes!

HAVE YOU
BEEN DOING
WELL?

IT HAS BEEN
A LONG TIME,
HASN'T IT...

...TOHRU-
SAN?



YES, IT'S
GONE.

WHY'D YOU
BOTHER
TRYING?

EVEN WHEN
YOU DON'T
BURN IT,
YOU'RE
COOKING
ISN'T VERY
GOOD.



I'M SORRY
THAT YOU
HAD TO
SEE THAT
SHAMEFUL
SCENE.

SO YOU
REALLY DID
CUT YOUR
PONYTAIL OFF.

No...
it wasn't
...



SHISHOU!
WHAT ARE
YOU BURNING
THIS TIME?!

EH?



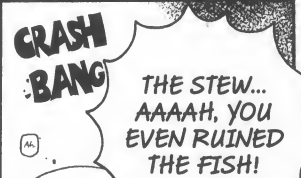
SORRY,
SORRY.

THE BOOK
WAS SO
INTERESTING,
I COULDN'T
PUT IT
DOWN.



BURN IT!

IT'S
SHIGURE-
KUN'S NEW
BOOK.



THE STEW...
AAAAH, YOU
EVEN RUINED
THE FISH!

SINCE TOHRU-
SAN'S COME
ALL THIS WAY,
I THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE NICE
IF I COOKED
FOR HER.

CLATTER
CLATTER



STOP
READING BOOKS
WHILE YOU'RE
COOKING! HOW
MANY TIMES
DO I--FIRE!!

Put out the fire!



*Book Title: In the Moonlight







KAZUMA-SAN...



HE WAS FILLED
WITH NOTHING
BUT THE SCENT
OF DARKNESS...

...THAT
RESEMBLED
DEATH.



RECENTLY,
HE'S EVEN
BEEN TALKING
TO ME A LOT.

I WASN'T SURE
HE'D EVER BE
ABLE TO OPEN
UP LIKE THAT TO
ANYONE BUT YOU,
KAZUMA-SAN.

I'M GLAD.



OH!

I'LL
GET IT.

THIS TIME
LAST YEAR...

...HE
WOULDN'T
TRY TO
EVEN LIFT
HIS FACE,
LET ALONE
SMILE.



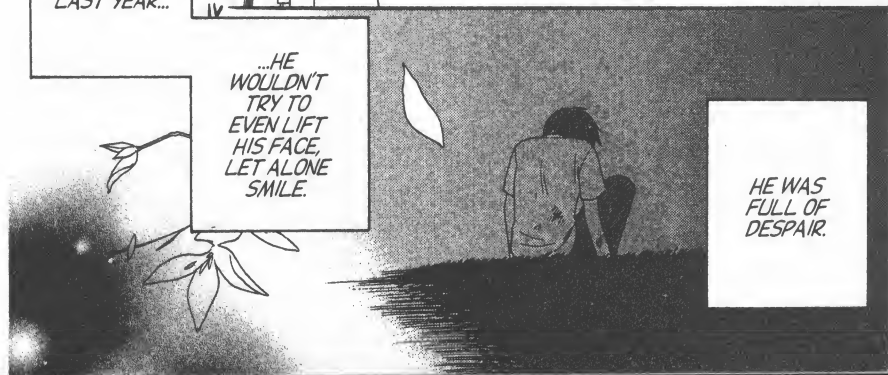
You're
undoing
your hair.
Can you
redo it?

It's fine.

Well,
okay.

HA
HA!

HE LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
HAVING FUN.



HE WAS
FULL OF
DESPAIR.



WHAT?
YOU'RE
GOING OUT?

HUH?

I'M SORRY.
SOMETHING
SUDDENLY CAME
UP. I HAVE TO
MEET WITH
SOMEONE.

...AND IT
MAKES ME
FEEL SICK.

I CAN
GUESS TOO
EASILY WHAT
HE'D WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT...



...DID
SOME-
THING...

...HAPPEN?

ARE YOU
OKAY?



I APOLOGIZE
TO YOU
AS WELL,
TOHRU-SAN.

I WILL BE
BACK AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

AH! YES...
PLEASE
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME.

stand

SHISHOU...



IT WAS
KYO'S
FATHER.

ALL HE SAID
WAS THAT HE'D
LIKE TO MEET
WITH YOU TO
TALK ABOUT
SOMETHING.

KAZUMA-
SAN, I HAVE
A MESSAGE
FOR YOU.

OH...

WHO WAS
ON THE
PHONE?

AFTER ALL
THIS TIME,
WHAT COULD
HE WANT TO
TALK ABOUT?

AND ON A
DAY WHEN
KYO IS HERE...

WILL YOU
MEET WITH
HIM?

KUUU-
NII-MIIT-
SUUU...

I'VE KNOWN
KYO SINCE
HE WAS LITTLE.

LIKE THIS ONE
TIME, WHEN HE
CRIED BECAUSE
HE WAS SCARED
OF THE STAIN IN
THE KITCHEN...

SHISHOU AND
KUNIMITSU
TALK TOO
MUCH!

SO EVEN
KYO-KUN GOT
SCARED AND
CRIED WHEN
HE WAS
LITTLE!

What the
hell?!

Something
like that
happened to
me, too!

OF
COURSE
I DID...

Ah!

Dammit,
making me
look bad.

MIGHT
THIS BE THE
STAIN HE
WAS TALKING
ABOUT?

DON'T TELL
HER STUFF
SHE DOESN'T
NEED TO
KNOW!

GO AWAY!
GET LOST!!

RIGHT, RIGHT.
THE THIRD
WHEEL IS
LEAVING.

AAH?!

* Oya-baka = parent stupid, ko-baka = child-stupid. In Japan it is frowned upon to publicly compliment members of your family or your own employees with them there, and it's usually very embarrassing for the person being complimented. The term "oya-baka" refers to a parent who toothily goes on and on about their child's accomplishments, and "ko-baka" would be a child who goes on and on about their parent.

YOU ALWAYS
USED TO
LOOK LIKE
YOU WOULD
CRY WHEN
I LEFT YOU.

Tmp
tmp...

THAT
WAS WHEN
I WAS A KID!
FORGET ABOUT
THE PAST!!

WHAT THE
HELL IS
THAT?!

NO NEED TO
WORRY. I'LL
BE BACK SOON.

BE A GOOD
BOY AND
WAIT.

EEP?!

PLEASED TO
MEET YOU. I'M
KUNIMITSU
TOMODA.

W-WHO
MIGHT
YOU BE?!

SUCH
FRIENDLY
BICKERING...

I GUESS YOU
COULD SAY I'M
KAZUMA-SAN'S
STUDENT AS
WELL AS HIS
PERSONAL
SECRETARY.

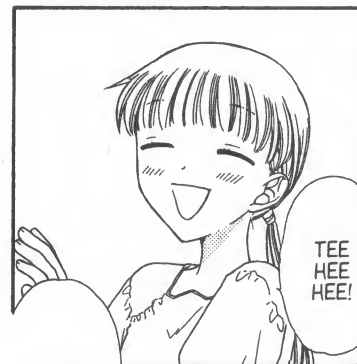
BECAUSE
THEY'RE AN
OYA-BAKA AND
A KO-BAKA*.



...WILL I BE
ABLE TO
OVERCOME
MY FEARS?



WHEN I'M
OLDER...



TEE
HEE
HEE!

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



IT'S
NOTHING
TO BE
AFRAID OF.

I'M SURE
IT WILL
STOP BEING
SCARY...



...GET
BIGGER.



AH! I'M
SORRY. MAYBE
YOU'RE STILL
SCARED OF IT...

I CAN SEE
WHY YOU WERE
SCARED. IT
ALMOST LOOKS
LIKE A FACE.

OF
COURSE
I'M NOT!!

How old
do you
think I
am?!



...WHEN
YOUR
BODY...

...AND YOUR
HEART...



KYO IS BEING
GIVEN AN
EXTRAORDINARY
AMOUNT OF
FREEDOM...

THE CAT
NEEDS TO BE
CONFINED.

...BUT THAT
WILL END
WHEN HE
GRADUATES
HIGH SCHOOL.



...HE HAS TO LIVE
IN THE MAIN
HOUSE... IN THAT
DEEP, DARK ROOM
JUST FOR HIM.

AFTER
THAT, FOR
HIS ENTIRE
LIFE...

...UNTIL HE
DIES...

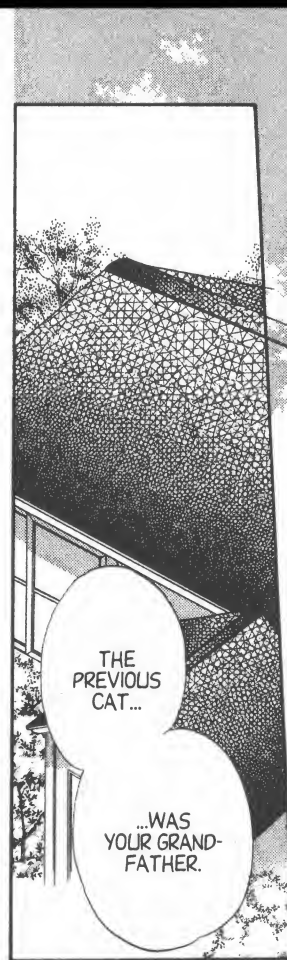


KAZUMA-DONO...
WHEN THE
TIME COMES,
WE NEED YOUR
COOPERATION.

WE CAN'T
LET HIM
GET AWAY!

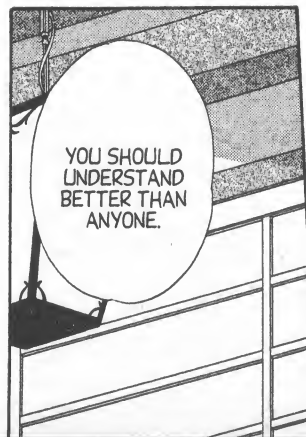
HE WON'T BE
ALLOWED
OUTSIDE
ANYMORE.

LIKE YOUR
GRANDFATHER,
HE WON'T EVEN
BE ALLOWED TO
MARRY, ALONE
HIS WHOLE LIFE,
AS THE CAT
DESERVES.



THE
PREVIOUS
CAT...

...WAS
YOUR GRAND-
FATHER.



YOU SHOULD
UNDERSTAND
BETTER THAN
ANYONE.



1/10
smack
F
HYAU!

Hey!
ENOUGH
SLACKING!
LET'S MAKE
LUNCH!



...CHANGE
THE FUTURE?

I'VE NEVER
MADE A SOUND
LIKE THAT
BEFORE. IT
WAS PRETTY
FUNNY.

Wasn't it?

WANNA
HEAR IT
AGAIN?

WILL I BE
ABLE TO...

N-NO,
HEAVEN
FORBID!



IT'S THAT
THING'S
FAULT...
AND YET...

IT'S ALL
THAT
THING'S
FAULT.

IT'S THAT
THING'S FAULT
EVERYTHING
FELL APART.

YOU
RESEMBLE
HIM.



BUT THAT
BOY...

UNABLE TO
BEAR HIS
ANXITIES
AND FEARS...

...IS
CHANGING.

HE HAS
FINALLY...

...HE WOULD
STOP HIS
EARS AND
CLOSE HIS
EYES...

...AND
FORCE
THEM ONTO
OTHER
PEOPLE.



JUST A
LITTLE. YOU
RESEMBLE...

...THE
OLD KYO.



THAT
THING IS A
MONSTER!!

WHEN I THINK OF
THAT THING LIVING
OUTSIDE AS IT DOES
NOW, I GET ANXIOUS.
THAT THING...

A MONSTER
WHO IT'S
PRACTICALLY
A FACT KILLED
HIS OWN
MOTHER...
WHO KILLED
MY WIFE!!



EVEN
SO...

...IT'S
A LITTLE
EARLY TO BE
DISCUSSING
THIS.

HE STILL
HAS ANOTHER
YEAR BEFORE
GRADUATION--

JOLT!

**I'M
ANXIOUS!!**



WHY IS
SUCH A THING
ALLOWED
TO LIVE?!

B-BUT
THAT THING
DOESN'T
EVEN HAVE
A SHRED OF
GUILT.

I'LL...I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE IT.
MY WIFE...

WHY?!

...IT KILLED MY
WIFE...AND...
ALL THE PAIN
I'VE HAD TO
ENDURE.



BUT I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
ABOUT. YOU
JUST TOOK
THAT THING IN
FOR THE MONEY!

A-ARE YOU
TRYING TO SAY
IT'S ALL MY
FAULT?!

ANYONE
WHO RAISES
A MEMBER OF
THE ZODIAC,
EVEN IF IT IS
THE CAT, IS
SET FOR LIFE!

Ha!

YOU TALK AS
IF YOU'RE HIS
FATHER!

I AM ASKING
HOW YOU COME
TO BLAME HIM
FOR EVERY-
THING.



I COULD NOT
POSSIBLY
HELP YOU TO
CONFINED HIM.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU HATE
HIM...

...I AM HAPPY
TO SEE HIM
GROW.



I WOULD
PROTECT
KYO SINGLE-
HANDEDLY
IF I HAD TO.

I DON'T
CARE
WHO IS
AGAINST
ME.

THE HEAD OF
THE FAMILY
WON'T BE HAPPY
WHEN HE HEARS
ABOUT THIS!

H-HOW
DARE YOU!



MAYBE
IT'S
TIME...

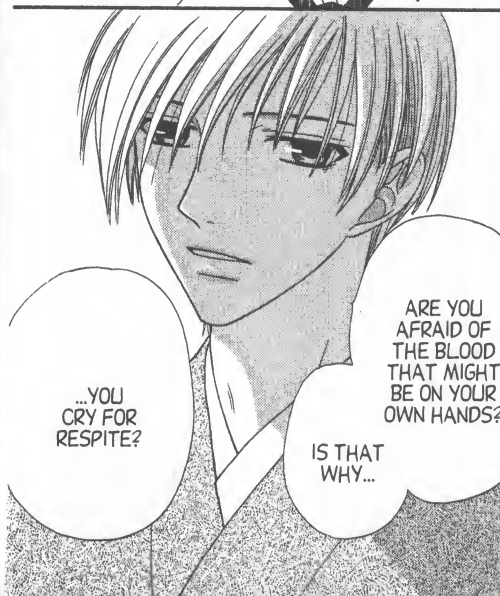
...RISEN
ABOVE HIS
DESPAIR...

...AND IS
STARTING
TO MOVE
FORWARD.

...THAT YOU
GREW UP,
TOO.

YOU'RE SO
EAGER TO
BLAME YOUR
TROUBLES ON
YOUR SON...

DO YOU NOT
REFLECT UPON
YOURSELF?



...YOU
CRY FOR
RESPITE?

ARE YOU
AFRAID OF
THE BLOOD
THAT MIGHT
BE ON YOUR
OWN HANDS?

IS THAT
WHY...

TO GROW.



KYO HIMSELF
PROBABLY
REALIZES THE
FUTURE THAT
HAS BEEN
PREPARED
FOR HIM.

I DON'T
WANT TO
MAKE HIM
STAND IN
THAT
DARKNESS
...

...EVER
AGAIN.

I HAVE NO
DESIRE TO
SEND HIM
BACK.

I SAID...

I HATE THE
OCEAN AND
SWIMMING
POOLS!

I'd get
wet.

THE
SCENT OF
DARKNESS
I FELT
BACK
THEN...

...IS HERE,
AMONG THE
SOHMA, AS
WELL.



THEIR HEARTS
STAGNATE
OPPRESSIVELY.



THAT IS MY
HUMBLE
OPINION.

YOU, WHO
CANNOT
HAVE THE
HEART OF A
PARENT...

...WOULD
NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



YOU THINK
YOU CAN
GET AWAY
WITH THIS?

y--

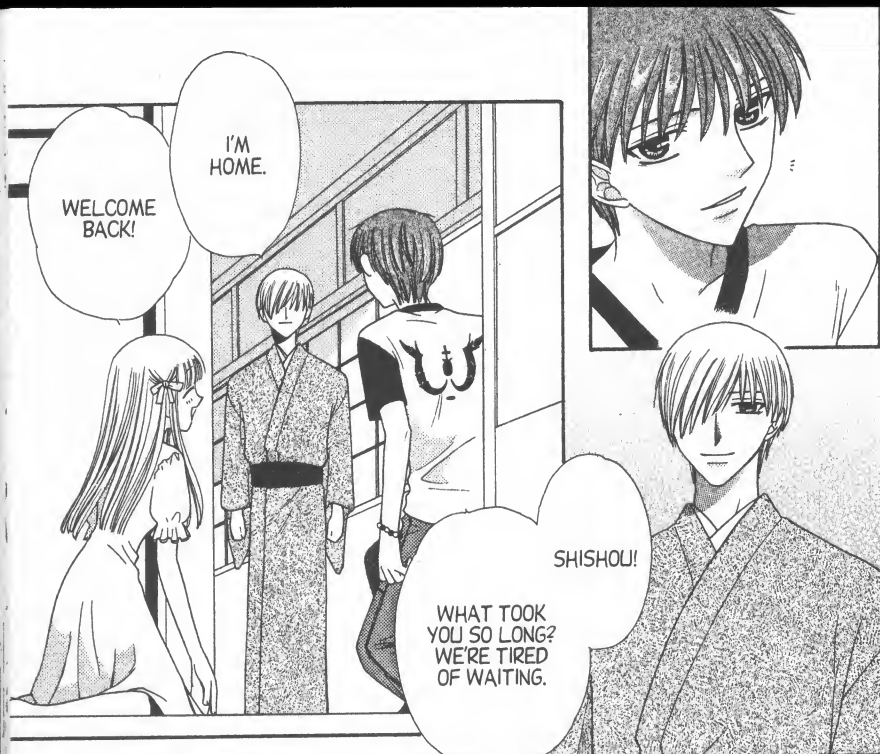


YOU THINK
YOU CAN
STOP THIS?!

"HE WON'T
BE ALLOWED
OUTSIDE..."



UNTIL HE
DIES.



WELCOME BACK!

I'M HOME.

SHISHOU!

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? WE'RE TIRED OF WAITING.



THEY WILL NOT TOUCH YOU AS LONG AS I'M AROUND.

YOU STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO...

WAS THERE A PROBLEM?

YES... I SUPPOSE SO.

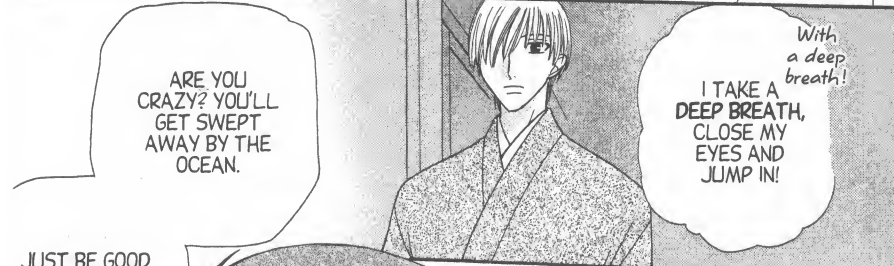
I HAD TO LISTEN TO SOME TIRESOME COMPLAINTS.



CAN YOU EVEN SWIM, ANYWAY?

PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME! I JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER HOW TO DO THE BREATHING!

Huh?!
HOW DO YOU SWIM IF YOU CAN'T BREATHE?



ARE YOU CRAZY? YOU'LL GET SWEEP AWAY BY THE OCEAN.

With a deep breath!
I TAKE A DEEP BREATH, CLOSE MY EYES AND JUMP IN!

JUST BE GOOD AND MAKE A SAND CASTLE OR SOMETHING.



HA HA!

It's...
Okay...
I will.



I WILL
PROTECT
YOU!

YES!
THAT'S
WHY WE
WERE
WAITING!

BUT
NOW THAT
I'M BACK, IS
THE CURRY
READY?



WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
EAT LUNCH?



.....
?

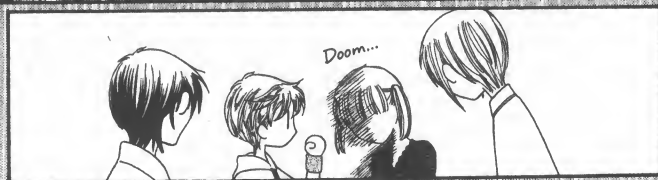
WHAT?



NOT BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

The clothes Momitchi wears starting on the next page were designed by Mari Hidaka*-sensei. She sent me a fax that she drew of Momitchi that was *sooo* cute that I melted, so I got permission to let him actually wear the clothes in the manga. The original fax is actually *much* cuter. Long sleeves and boots... I'm sorry... It's the best I could do! Anyway, very many thanks, Hidaka-sensei.





サァァ...





Yuki and Momiji finished early.

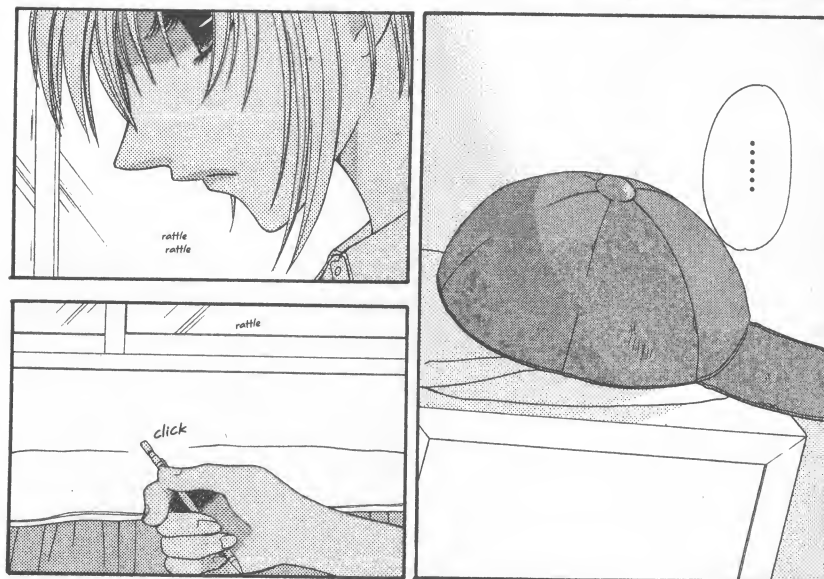
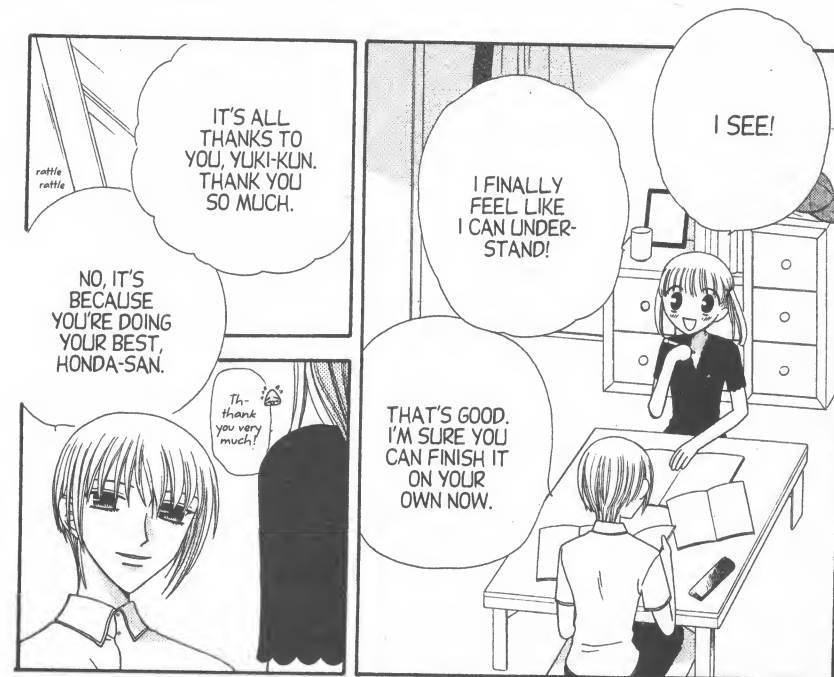


Fruits Basket 9
Part 6

The "Rain Shelter of Terror" that starts on page 181 is something I drew for the **Fruits Basket Special Edition Magazine**. It was a wonderful publication that even had interviews with the anime voice actors! (By the way, they're not selling it anymore.) The drawings were the first I'd done in a year after my recovery, so you can see in them how happy I was to be able to draw. That's how I see them.







EVEN...

...IF YOU DO
FORGET."

HOND...

WHY DID YOU
KEEP IT? IT'S
SO... WORN OUT.

*My memory
is hazy.*

I DON'T
KNOW WHO
OR WHERE
HE IS...

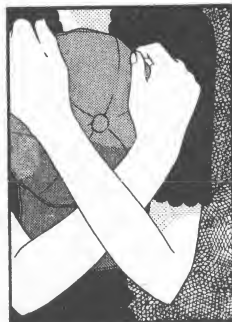
...AND
I DON'T EVEN
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
LOOKED LIKE.

BECAUSE IT'S
A PRECIOUS
MEMORY.

...THAT HE
HELPED ME.

BECAUSE
I REALLY
WAS...

...VERY
HAPPY...



TH-TH-THE
GLASS! THE
GLASS!

WE KNOW.
CALM
DOWN.

YOU'RE
NOT HURT,
ARE YOU?

FOR NOW,
WE HAVE
TO CLOSE
THIS UP.

IT'S
DANGEROUS,
HONDA-SAN.
YOU SHOULD
WAIT OUT-
SIDE.

I-I-I'm
all right!
I'll
help!

STOP, O
MIGHTY
WIND! I
COMMAND
YOU!

ST-
STOP
...?

YOU MORON.
YOU THINK
THAT WOULD
STOP IT?!

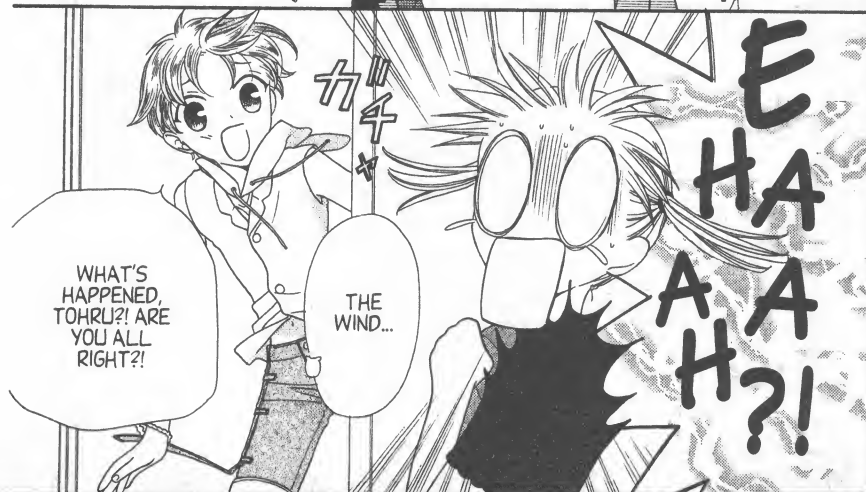


EH?

flap flap

WHOOOSH

HUH...?



WHAT'S
HAPPENED,
TOHRU?! ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?!

THE
WIND...



MAYBE IT'S
A SIGN FROM
ABOVE THAT
I SHOULD
REBUILD THE
HOUSE.

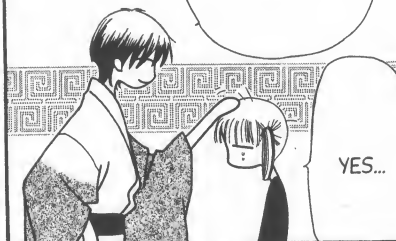
HMM...



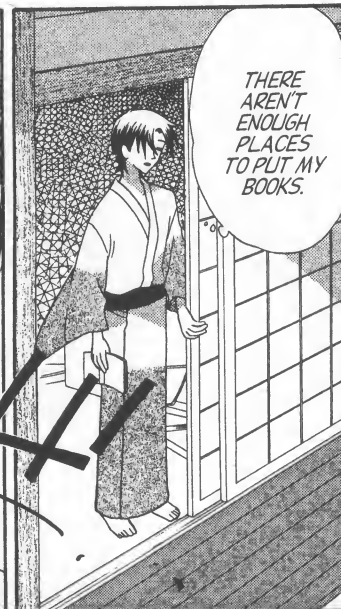
EVERYONE
IS HELPING
WITH THAT
RIGHT NOW.

THEN YOU
CAN GO,
TOHRU-KUN.

I'M NOT
ANGRY.



YES...



THERE
AREN'T
ENOUGH
PLACES
TO PUT MY
BOOKS.



OH, THAT
SOUND.

SO IT
REALLY
WAS THE
SOUND OF
GLASS
BREAKING.



I'M SORRY.

Ah ha ha!

IT WAS
THE WIND'S
FAULT, SO
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

BUT WE HAVE
TO CLOSE UP
THE WINDOW.





...I WASN'T
THE ONE...

...WHO
BROKE THE
GLASS.



I KNOW.



...RIN.

OH, AND
CONGRATULATIONS
ON LEAVING THE
HOSPITAL....

LONG TIME
NO SEE.



FOR YOUR
INFORMATION...



ANSWER ME...

...GURE-NII.

WELL...

DO I KNOW?

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.

ANSWER ME.



NO, YOU DON'T.

HA!



I WONDER...

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M THAT SIMPLE?



Um...

...RIN-CHAN?

YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T WEAR YOUR BOOTS IN THE--

YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?

WHY I CAME HERE?



WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT--WHAT I WANT?

YOU ALREADY KNOW...

...DON'T YOU, GURE-NII?



Aahh, my hair's ruffled.

WELL, COME ON INSIDE.

BEING OUT IN THIS WEATHER COULD AFFECT YOUR HEAL--





THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

IT'S NO
PROBLEM.

But...

YOU CAN'T
SLEEP HERE
TONIGHT,
CAN YOU?

AH!

THE WIND
HAS DIED
DOWN.

Uwaahh!
That's
so rude!

KYO DID
SOMETHING SO
EXTREMELY
SENSELESS?!

It's all
right!

BEFORE...

...WHEN THERE
WAS A HOLE IN
THE CEILING, I HAD
NO PROBLEMS
SLEEPING IN HERE.

OH YEAH...
THAT WAS
WHEN I BROKE
THROUGH,
WASN'T IT?

EEHH?!

YOU'RE
THE LAST ONE
I WANNA HEAR
THAT FROM!



OR IS THAT
FOOLISHNESS
PART OF
YOUR PLAN?

NOW
THEN...

SO, WHAT?

ARE
YOU JUST
STUPID?

HOW SHALL
WE BEGIN?



...WHEN
I OPEN...

...THE
CLOSED
LID?

Nameplate: Sohma



WHAT WILL
HAPPEN...

"BECAUSE IT'S
A PRECIOUS
MEMORY."



RAIN SHELTER OF TERROR

IT'S AN EVENING SHOWER, SO IF WE WAIT A WHILE, IT SHOULD PASS.

I DON'T CARE...

JUST MAKE IT STOP.

SHEESH.

WHAT'S WITH THE DOWNPOUR OUT OF NOWHERE?



IT WOULD BE NICE IF THERE WAS SOME WAY TO DISTRACT HIM FROM IT.



Lame!
Lame! Lame!
SHUT UP! OF COURSE I'M NOT!

WHAT ARE YOU COLLAPSED FOR?
YOU SCARED OF THUNDER?



Rain ...
I LIKE THAT IT KEEPS HIM QUIET.
KYO-KUN DOESN'T LIKE THE RAIN.



WHAT WILL BE GAINED?

WHAT WILL BE LOST?

To Be Continued in Volume 10...



SHE REALLY
LOOKS LIKE
SHE CAN'T
HANDLE IT...

B-B-B-B-
BRING
IT ON.

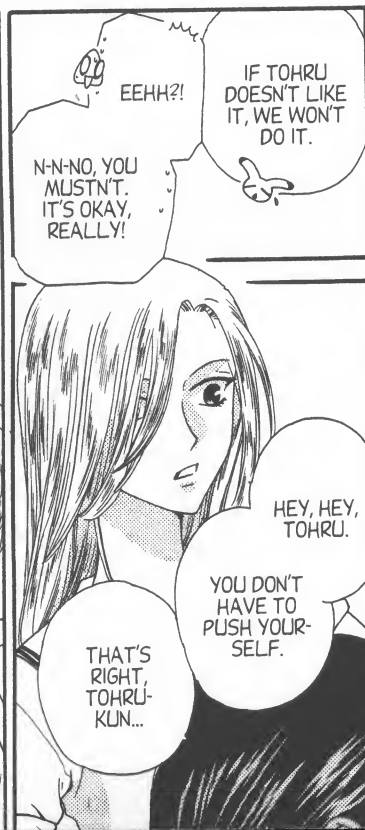
N-N-N-NO,
I'M ALL
RIGHT.

EH?



WHA
?!

WHY HIDE IT?
I DON'T LIKE
SCARY STORIES
EITHER...



EEHH?!

IF TOHRU
DOESN'T LIKE
IT, WE WON'T
DO IT.

N-N-NO, YOU
MUSTN'T.
IT'S OKAY,
REALLY!

HEY, HEY,
TOHRU.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
PUSH YOUR-
SELF.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
TOHRU-
KUN...



jitter
joy
jitter
joy
jitter
joy

YOU KNOW!
I READ AN
INTERESTING
SCARY BOOK!

SUMMER'S BEST
FOR TELLING
BLOOD-BURGLING
SCARY STORIES!

jitter

YOU
MEAN
BLOOD-
GIRDLING.

WILL
YOU TWO
SHUT UP?!

You're both saying
it wrong!

LET'S
TELL
SCARY
STORIES!!

HYAH
?!



EH?

I DON'T
MIND...

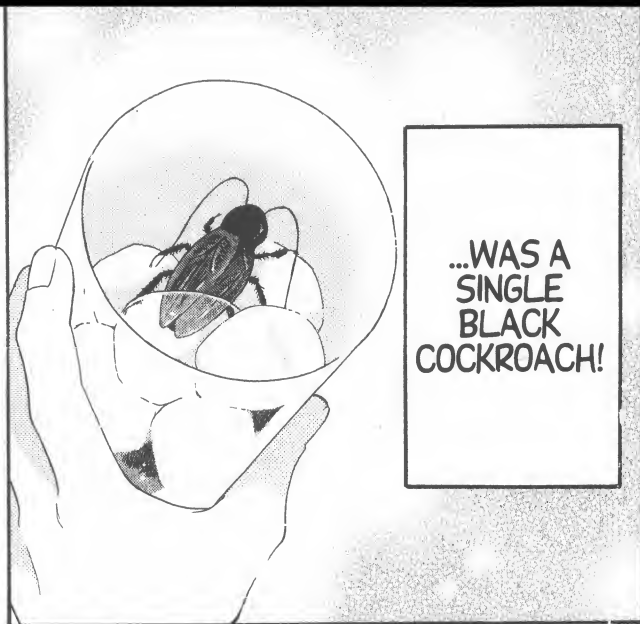
BUT ISN'T
THERE SOME-
ONE HERE WHO
DOESN'T LIKE
THEM?

WILL YOU
LISTEN,
YUKI?

IT'S THE
PERFECT
WAY TO
KILL TIME.

WHAT'S
WRONG WITH
SOME SCARY
STORIES?





...WAS A
SINGLE
BLACK
COCKROACH!



EWW !!

WHOA,
SCARY!!
THAT'S THE
SCARIEST
STORY
I'VE EVER
HEARD!!

THE NEXT
CHAPTER
IS A STORY
ABOUT GRATED
CHEESE.

STOP IT!
DON'T TELL
ANY MORE!



WAS HE
PLANNING
THIS ALL
ALONG...?

OKAY THEN,
LET'S START!

YOU'RE
TELLING
IT?!

IT WAS A
SWELTERING
SUMMER
AFTERNOON...



HE
GAZED...

BUT AS HE
REACHED THE
BOTTOM, HIS
BODY FROZE.

DYING OF
THIRST,
HE WENT TO
THE KITCHEN.

HE FINDS
A CUP OF
ICED COFFEE
THAT LOOKED
AS IF IT HAD
JUST BEEN
PREPARED.

UNABLE TO
EVEN AVERT
HIS EYES, HIS
ENTIRE BODY
WAS AS RIGID
AS STONE.

HE REALIZED
THE TERRIFYING
DEED HE
HAD JUST
PERFORMED.

FOR
THERE,
SITTING
IN THE
GLASS...

THINKING
IT A
BLESSING
FROM
HEAVEN,
HE DRANK IT
ALL IN ONE
LONG SIP.

GLUG

GLUG

GLUG

GLU

Next time in...



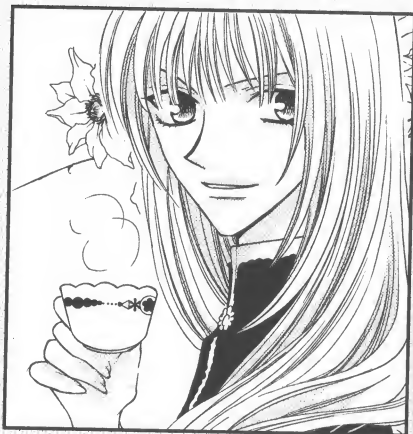
Dog Days of Summer...

Tohru and the Sohmas are spending time at the Sohma family's summer-house, but it's not all fun in the sun on this little trip. Akito pays a surprise visit, causing a commotion for the rest of the family. At the summer house. Shigure takes a trip down memory lane with an old friend, remembering the days when Hatori wasn't so aloof. Meanwhile, Tohru starts thinking--what must life be like for the parents and lovers of a cursed member of the Sohma family? Can life with this family truly be happy while bearing such a burden?

Fruits Basket Volume 10
Available July 2005



Year of the Snake: Slithery Narcissism



limelight. Though heartless at times, Snakes choose their words very carefully and speak them in a listless, yet cautious manner. Depending on the situation and the amount of pressure placed upon them, Snakes will either try to lighten up an atmosphere with jokes or emit an icy exterior to stare down the grim tidings.

Women born under this sign are very quiet and serene individuals, but mainly because they prefer to let their appearance do the talking. Female Snakes prefer to dress to impress and only wear the finest in clothing and jewelry. Friends are also chosen with a Snake's own self as the key frame of reference as they prefer to gravitate towards those who are like-minded and trustworthy. Best of all, relationships with Snakes are always filled with passion and romance.

Celebrity Snakes:

James Van Der Beek
Kim Basinger
Björk
Sarah Michelle Gellar
Ludacris
Chris Martin
John Mayer
Tom Welling

Snake

Years: 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013, 2025, 2037

Qualities: Romantic, Clever, Discreet, Refined, Intelligent

Grievances: Vain, Procrastinator, Hot-Tempered

Suitable Jobs: Teacher, Philosopher, Writer, Psychiatrist, Fortune Teller

Compatible With: Ox, Rooster

Must Avoid: Boar

Ruling Hours: 9 AM to 11 AM

Season: Spring

Ruling Month: May

Sign Direction: South-Southwest

Fixed Element: Fire

Corresponding Western Sign: Taurus

Throughout the ages, Snakes have gotten the short end of the stick and made out to be villains like the Great Kaa in *The Jungle Book* or the fabled serpent in the Garden of Eden. However, the Chinese Zodiac sees any negative traits in the Snake as it would any of the other animal's dual natures--as yin and yang.

A person born in the Year of the Snake is endowed with great wisdom and even greater beauty. Like Ayame Sohma, fellow Snakes are very sure of themselves, but also incredibly vain and they like to flaunt what they have. Money comes easily for a Snake, but try to get a Snake to loan a friend a few bucks and their stingy nature rears its ugly head. The key to getting Snakes to crack open their wallet is to catch their sympathy. If they see someone that is in need or less fortunate than they are, then they collapse like a house of cards.

Snakes tend to overdo it when it comes to their jobs and prefer to control rather than lead. This is mainly due to Snakes always striving for the

* Note: It is important to know what day Chinese New Year's was held on as that changes what Zodiac animal you are. Example: 1989 actually began on February 6 and anyone born before that date is actually a Dragon.